

FEBRUARY + MARCH 2024

THE SPARK



SHASA NEWSLETTER

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR...



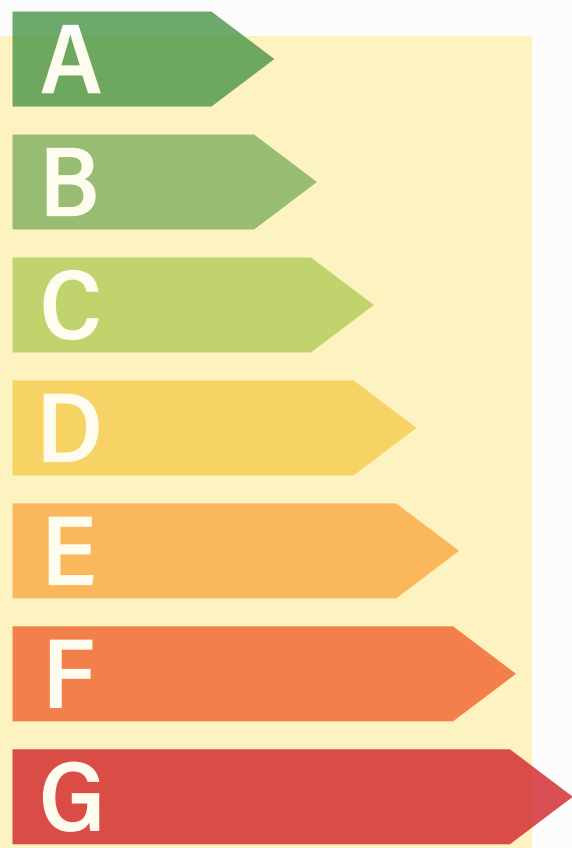
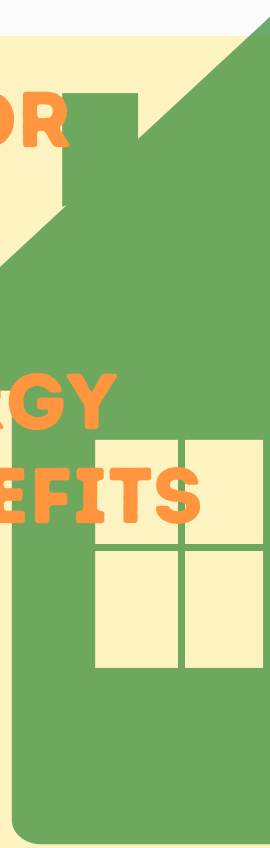
Your local community energy and resilience group, SHASA, has a big year of activities and projects planned for 2024. The SHASA volunteers are busy:

- applying for grants to install solar and or batteries on community owned facilities to reduce running costs and greenhouse gas emissions
- applying for grants to upgrade more community-owned facilities to operate as Heatwave and Bushfire Smoke Havens and reduce ongoing running costs, and to develop a business case for on-demand public transport – especially so people who don't drive can attend medical appointments
- completing a dozen projects funded by the ESC Healthy Communities Program, Fire To Flourish, FRRR Investing in Rural Communities Futures, FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities, BLERF (Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund), and NSW Infrastructure Grants
- organising EV stalls at markets across the Eurobodalla
- setting up a Eurobodalla EV Club for EV owners and people interested in owning an EV
- developing business cases for solar and neighbourhood batteries for seven communities across the Eurobodalla

To find out more go to our website www.shasa.com.au and our Facebook page www.facebook.com/shasa.energy

\$206 MILLION FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS TO ACCESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY BENEFITS

In January, the Federal and NSW Governments announced a joint effort to fund \$206 million for energy upgrades and rooftop solar for social housing residents.



Upgrades to public and social housing

The initiative will provide upgrades to 24,000 public and social housing properties to help residents save money on electricity. The upgrades include heat pump hot water system installations, ceiling fans, reverse-cycle air conditioners, solar systems, insulation and draught-proofing.

Solar Banks Project

A 50 per cent rebate is on offer for multi-unit dwellings to install solar panels. Up to 10,000 low-income houses, units and townhouses are eligible under the program.

Solar Gardens Project

Solar Gardens will offer low-income houses the option to purchase a section of solar panels from existing solar farms, which will provide them with free renewable energy - without having to install solar panels themselves.

Clean, cheap rooftop energy, powered by the sun, is the best answer to lowering energy bills and responding to the cost-of-living crisis.



REPAIR, REPURPOSE AND REUSE!

**REPAIR CAFE
EUROBODALLA**

**RED DOOR HALL
ST JOHN'S COMMONS
PAGE ST
MORUYA**

Every Friday

9.30am-12.30pm

For more info visit
shasa.com.au/repair-cafe
Facebook Repair Cafe Eurobodalla
or email contact.shasa@gmail.com

EXPERTS GIVE GUIDANCE ON NEW VEHICLE EFFICIENCY STANDARD

The Smart Energy Council and SHASA are urging Australians to vote for 'Option C' of the government's New Vehicle Efficiency Standard if they want more efficient cars with bigger cost savings, like in Norway.

Clean energy groups are urging Australians to vote for 'Option C' of the new standard, not the government's preferred 'Option B'.

According to the Norwegian Road Federation's latest monthly vehicle emissions report, new passenger vehicles sold in January averaged just 9 grams of CO₂ per km – a new low.

It's the first time average passenger vehicle emissions have dropped below 10 grams per kilometre in what is by far the world's most efficient car market. In contrast, Australian passenger vehicles sold in 2022 produced on average 162 gCO₂/km, representing 18 times more CO₂ emissions per car than vehicles sold in Norway last month.

It shows what's possible if Australians embrace the government's New Vehicle Efficiency Standard which was released for public consultation.

The government has provided 3 options which Australians can essentially vote on. While the government has stated its "preferred" option is B, clean energy groups such as the Smart Energy Council, are calling for Australians to vote for Option C if they want the choice of more efficient cars with bigger cost savings.

"This could be the most significant policy to reduce Australia's soaring transport emissions in history!" said Smart Energy Council CEO John Grimes in an email to members congratulating the government on the policy announcement.

"The Albanese Government is seeking your input on the preferred model over the next month. Your opinion is crucial. Access the Impact Analysis and share your thoughts on Cleaner Cars." said Grimes.

While the government's preferred Option B is a huge step in the right direction, by embracing Option C, Australia could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and health-wrecking air pollution even faster, providing enormous cost savings and health benefits to all Australians.

The public consultation period for the NVES closes on March 4. You can have your say in less than 2 mins -- go to www.infrastructure.gov.au and search 'fuel efficiency standards'.



**DID YOU MISS THE EV EXPO ?
VISIT OUR STALL AT THE
NAROOMA ROTARY MARKET TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT ELECTRIC VEHICLES!**

**SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024
NATA OVAL NAROOMA
9am-1pm**

**Speak to EV Owners
Learn about EV Destination Charger Grants for Businesses
Check out a Tesla 3 & BYD Atto3
Book an EV Test Drive**

**For more information please contact
Kathryn Maxwell on 0467558645 or email
contact.shasa@gmail.com**

**HELLO EV OWNER AND WELCOME
TO THE EUROBODALLA EV CLUB EEVC!**



SHASA

(South Coast Health and Sustainability Alliance)

**are forming the
Eurobodalla Electric Vehicle Club
with a view to meet on a regular basis
(bimonthly) at chosen venues across
our beautiful Eurobodalla Shire.**

**The aim is to meet with fellow EV drivers,
hybrid vehicle drivers and those interested in
purchasing an EV to share the love of driving our
EV and exchange stories and
valuable tips on owning an EV.**

**Our first gathering will be held at the
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden Cafe
Deep Creek Dam Road, Batemans Bay
on Saturday 23 March at 10am.**

**For more information and to RSVP by Friday 15 March
please contact Kathryn Maxwell on 0467558645 or email
contact.shasa@gmail.com**

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US !

Rooftop solar has second coming as households electrify everything... including the car

“Residential solar remains the mainstay of the Australian solar success story, representing more than half the total solar power installed nationwide.

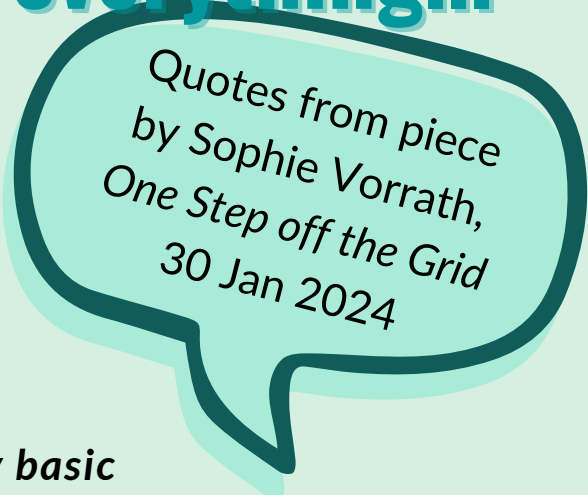
The popularity of solar is still largely driven by basic economics, including the fact that Australia remains one of the cheapest markets to install rooftop PV.

For those installing panels for the first time, super-sized systems are the order of the day. The average size of rooftop solar arrays grew to 9.4kW/system in 2023, a new record.

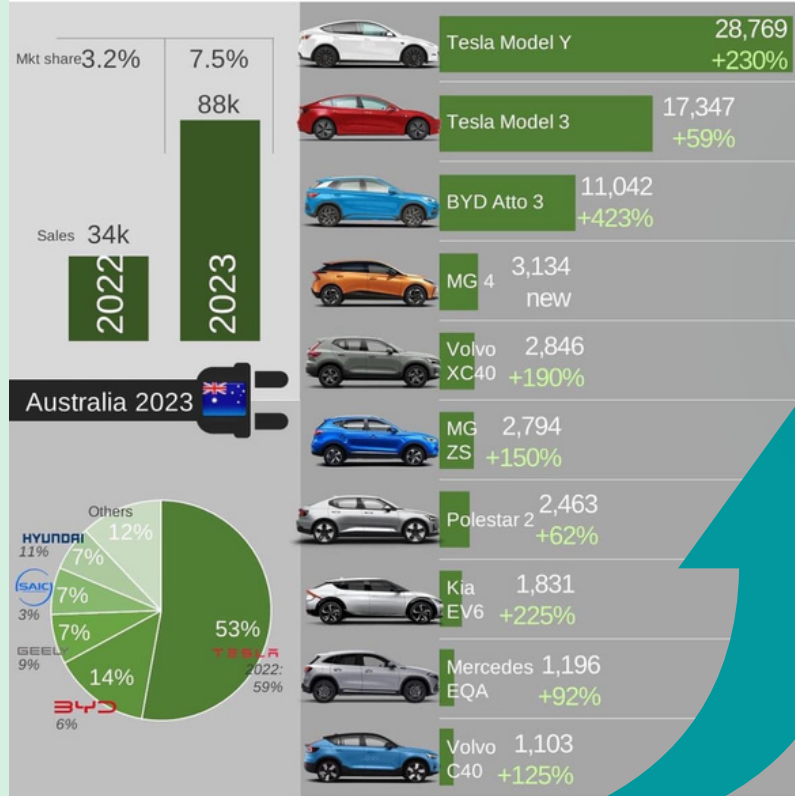
Anticipated uptake of EVs and batteries is a primary factor driving larger household system sizes, with many residential customers installing systems as big as permitted by their network operator.

Around 20% of the 336,000 customers who installed rooftop solar in 2023 were re-powering existing systems – that is, either boosting the size of an existing system or, more commonly, removing an older system entirely and replacing it with a new one that is bigger and more efficient. We’ve also seen many Australians installing larger solar systems and even upgrading existing units, in order to power electric vehicles and home energy storage systems, like batteries.”

Inevitably this raises the question of what is to be done with replaced and discarded solar panels. The last place we want these solar panels is in landfill. This is where Repurposing for Resilience Eurobodalla (RfR) comes in. With the help of grant support, the expertise of electricians and the consistent efforts of volunteers, used solar panels are being taken to the Moruya Transfer Station and sorted for reuse, repurposing and, as a last option, industrial materials recycling. Most Fridays you will find RfR busy with this at the Transfer Station.



Quotes from piece
by Sophie Vorrath,
One Step off the Grid
30 Jan 2024



EV sales 2024

REKINDLE ME REDUCES WASTE

Some of the pleasures of owning and driving an Electric Vehicle (EV) are the things you discover while public charging. On a recent trip to Sydney we had to head to the fast chargers at Shell Cove as the Berry charger was out of action. Next to us was a cute Mitsubishi MiEV mini-van, and the young owner helped us get the charger going as the screens were not working. In conversation, it turns out that this young guy – Wade Cawley – bought the imported ex-Japanese postal minivan for his business, which is called Rekindle Me.



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REKINDLE ME REDUCES WASTE

[Continued]

Like a lot of people, we tend to have a stash of old electrical items which we are not quite sure what to do with – they often wait for the hard rubbish collections, but unfortunately some of this also ends up in landfill or is not recycled effectively. Hearing about Wade's business and his obvious enthusiasm for what he does impressed us. It turns out that we can support his business - even though it is based in Port Kembla - through either warehouse drop-offs or accessing one of the community collections which happen fortnightly at Kiama, Berry and Nowra. Wade is also active in education and has spoken at schools and been featured in documentaries.

Rekindle Me accepts TVs, monitors, any electrical cable, microwaves, electric motors, computers, servers, power tools, vacuums, phones, DVD and CD players, blenders, printers, game consoles, POS systems, air fryers, tablets, small instantaneous hot water systems, fans, mixers, coffee machines, kettles, medical equipment, irons, telecommunication equipment, induction cooktops, calculators, radios, steam mops, sewing machines and much more! If possible, items are given new homes.



If they are vintage enough, they are passed onto an enthusiast. If they are broken, they are taken apart and the materials that make up that device recycled. Large white goods items are not accepted. I am thinking about how we can do a community collection locally, so watch this space.

It is such a worthwhile business to support – well done, Wade!

Public transport in the Eurobodalla: What could be done?

SHASA participates in several local community forums on issues that matter to our members. The Circle Foundation aims to create Healthy Communities by linking primary and supporting health professionals with community organisations like SHASA. The Eurobodalla Community Roundtable includes community groups and health professionals with a focus on disaster recovery. The subject of Eurobodalla's poor network of public transport has come up at both forums in the past year.

The SHASA Grants committee noted that the issue needs further investigation. We agreed to support the Circle Foundation to apply for a Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) grant to work towards a solution. Initially, this is to research unmet need and to assess whether models of Public Transport on Demand (PTOD) that are available in other regional communities might work here. One example is Sapphire Coast Flexibus in Bega, Merimbula and Eden.

In a piece of good timing, Transport for NSW is also running public consultation on the provision of NSW bus services. There will be public meetings in February and March, including one at the Bay Pavilions on 23 February from 12 to 2.30pm. Our State MP Michael Holland will attend and everyone is welcome (please register at this link):

www.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say - then search for 'bus'
If you can't attend, there is also an online survey.



SHASA encourages ESC to take up community grants of up to \$2.5 million

Local governments are being invited to apply for grants of up to \$2.5 million to electrify or improve the energy efficiency of public swimming pools, libraries and other community assets, with the launch of a new federal government funding program. With Eurobodalla Shire Council's budget being well and truly in the red, SHASA believes Council needs to grab this opportunity, which would be particularly useful for large facility the Bay Pavilion.

The one-off grants ranging between \$25,000 and \$2.5 million will be available to councils across Australia, to invest in measures like replacing swimming pool heating systems with electric heat pumps, battery storage at sporting fields, and the installation of electric vehicle chargers for council fleets.

Assistant minister for climate and energy, Jenny McAllister, says the government is keen to support local councils, which have unique insight into the needs of their local communities and are on the front line of combating climate change.

"By helping local governments decarbonise their operations, these projects can help drive the installation of energy efficiency and electrification technology across the economy and make a real difference on the path to net zero," McAllister said.

Round 1 applications are open until 30 April 2024, with grants to be awarded on merit after close of application.



“As a psychologist I have witnessed a surge in climate grief. This is what I tell my clients.” -- Carly Dober

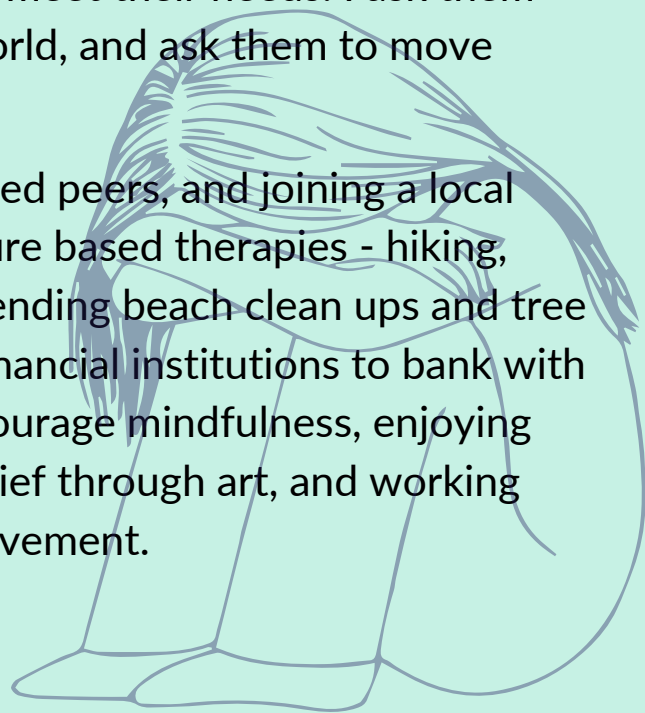
Bearing witness to the climate crisis can feel surreal at times, yet I do not mention this to my clients. I have a job to do, and it is not to escalate their rational anxieties and fears, it is to manage what is manageable; to teach coping strategies, to encourage connection to nature and social relationships, to channel their grief into sustainable action that feels meaningful.

The research tells us that climate change will trigger and exacerbate mental illness, with young people and those from marginalised backgrounds being disproportionately impacted across their lifetimes.

Life as we know it is becoming more unstable with each passing day. The climate crisis is not an isolated problem; it intertwines with every facet of human existence, from food security and water availability to economic stability and mental well-being.

I constantly return to the message that there is so much beauty and life in the world that can be saved - and is absolutely worth fighting for. I encourage people to curate their social media feeds and to seek out good news stories about climate action around the world. I get them to envision a world that is fair; where everyone has enough resources to meet their needs. I ask them what they can do now to contribute to this world, and ask them to move towards this.

I talk to them about connection with like minded peers, and joining a local climate action group. I talk to them about nature based therapies - hiking, swimming, listening and watching wildlife, attending beach clean ups and tree planting days. I talk to them about choosing financial institutions to bank with that rule out funding fossil fuel projects. I encourage mindfulness, enjoying the present moment, working through their grief through art, and working through their stress, rage and anxiety with movement.





MORUYA COMMUNITY GARDEN

St John's Commons
Page Street
MORUYA

**DO YOU NEED A SPACE TO GROW
SOME HERBS AND VEGGIES?**

The Moruya Garden is situated
in the grounds of St John's
Commons Moruya.

Newly prepared
allotments are available.

**2 ALLOTMENTS
AVAILABLE
NOW !**

**\$20 fee per annum
which includes soil,
mulch and water.**

Contact Kathryn Maxwell at SHASA on
0467558645 for more information.

WORKING BEES HELD BI-MONTHLY



A decorative graphic featuring a large purple arch that frames the central text. The arch is adorned with various stars: orange, purple, and yellow. There are also teal and purple curved lines with small dots, resembling a stylized galaxy or comet trails, in the corners. The background is a light beige color.

SHASA RESILIENCE AWARDS 2023

CONGRATULATIONS

**Moruya Golf Club
Adelaide Hotel**

Corrigans Cove Beach Resort

Batemans Bay Soldiers Club

Shoalhaven City Council

Dr Michelle Hamrosi

Lei Parker - The Beagle

The Climate Factory

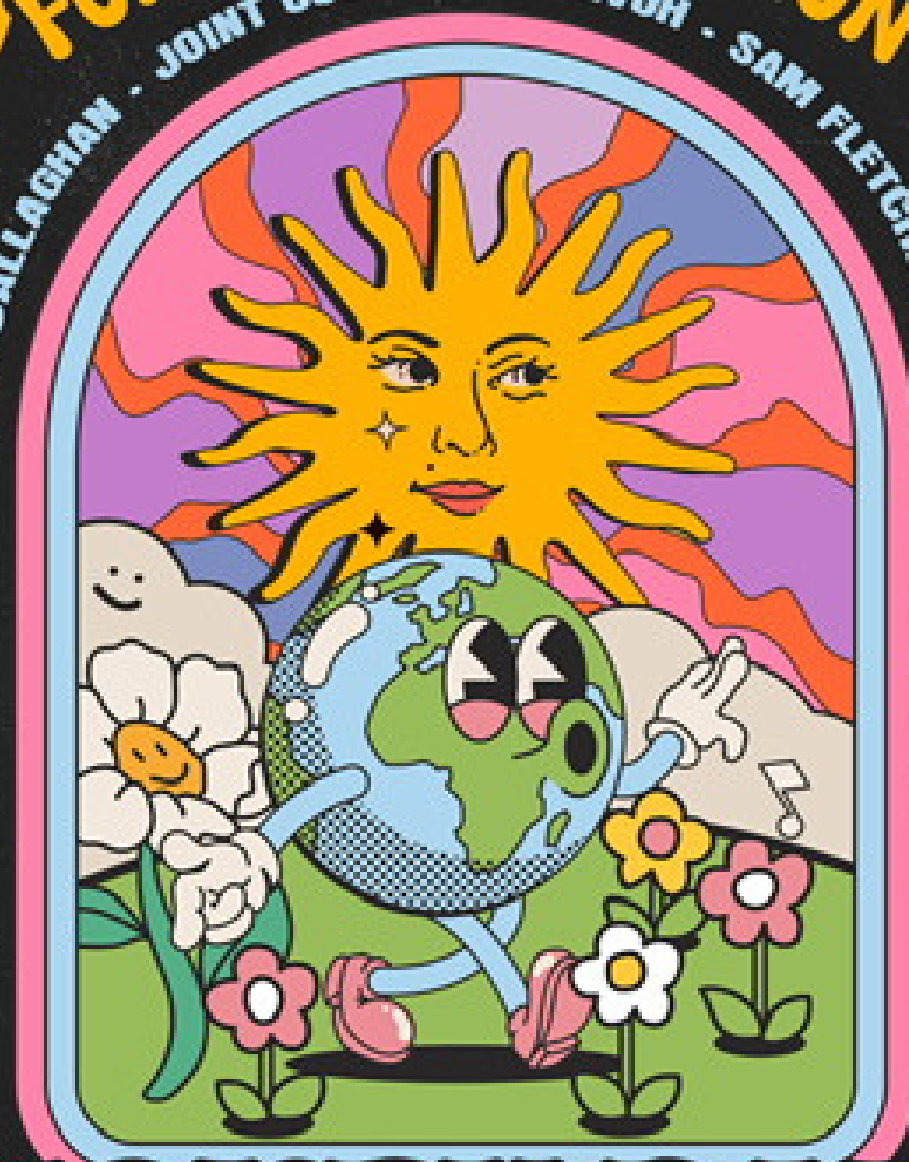
Repurposing For Resilience

SAM FLETCHER, FIRE TO FLOURISH, 350 EUROBOODALLA, JES MANAGEMENT AND SMOKEY DAN'S PROUDLY PRESENT

ROCK ON

FOR CLIMATE ACTION

RON CALLAGHAN - JOINT CUSTODY - FLAVUH - SAM FLETCHER BAND



SMOKEY DAN'S

SATURDAY 11TH MAY

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC, SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION,
CREATIVE DISPLAYS BY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS AND A PRIZE RAFFLE
FROM 5PM | TOMAKIN NSW | FREE ENTRY | ALL DONATIONS TO 350 EUROBOODALLA WELCOME



350.org
Eurobodalla

Sam Fletcher

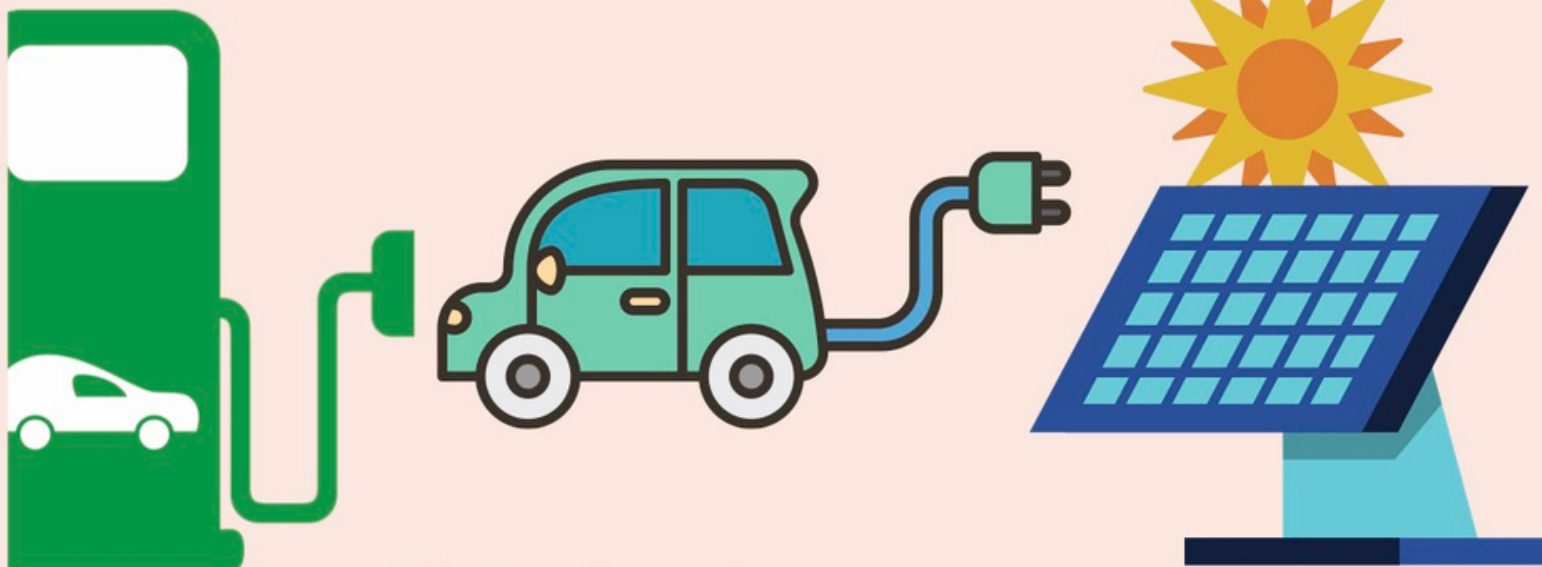
SMOKEY
DAN'S



THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY FUNDING RECEIVED FROM MONASH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE'S FIRE TO FLOURISH - EUROBOODALLA COMMUNITY TEAM

SHASA WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO ?

Southcoast Health & Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) is a local Eurobodalla community group which undertakes social and environmental projects to achieve a more resilient community and low carbon economy.



**Website: shasa.com.au
Facebook: Southcoast Health &
Sustainability Alliance
email: contact.shasa@gmail.com
Phone : 0467558645**