FEBRUARY + MARCH 2025

## THE SPARK





SHASA NEWSLETTER

## IS IT STILL WORTH BUYING A ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM?

Recent years have seen a rapid decline in feed-in tariffs for electricity put back into the grid from household rooftop solar systems. A quick check of retailers shows between 5c and 10c per kWh on the South Coast. Most households with a large rooftop solar system consume between 30% and 50% of the solar electricity they generate.

System size	System cost	Electricity savings PA	Feed-in tariff PA	Total savings	Payback
SkW 8kW	\$8000 (approx)	\$1022	\$182	\$1204	6.64 years

The more solar electricity you can consume, the bigger the savings. For example, an electric car uses 16-18kWh per 100km. If you charge your car using the excess solar electricity, it will only cost you the feed-in tariff.

Kathryn Maxwell, President of SHASA, owns an MG4 with a 64 kWh battery. It costs her \$3.20 for 400+ km of driving. Switch all appliances to electric (save on expensive gas bottles and fees) and use timers to operate during the day to add to your savings. You'll be able to smile when your electricity bills arrive in your letterbox or inbox.

To ensure a quality install, we recommend local Bodalla business Micro Energy Systems (MESA). They've done a fantastic job with all of SHASA's community facility solar installs and they help to fund SHASA's work. Give Lisa from MESA a call on 0410 790 616.

## TRADITIONAL VEHICLE AND FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY WORKING HARD TO DISCREDIT EVS!

"Persistent misconceptions include exaggerated concerns about battery life, charging infrastructure and safety. Traditional vehicle and oil companies actively spread misinformation in campaigns much like those used against other green energy initiatives." (Canberra City News, 16–22 January 2025).

ABC's Media Watch program, which exposes media bias and poor reporting, showed that the anti-EV coverage is co-ordinated, widespread, and based on poor, or cherry-picked research. That's a red flag for a PR campaign in progress.

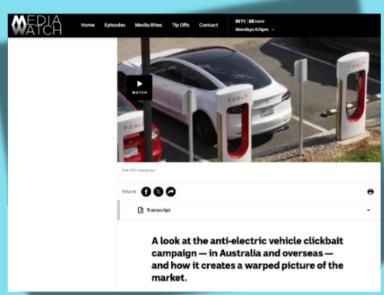
The benefits of EVs are known to those of us who drive them, but non-EV drivers can be swamped by these negative stories.

Contrary to the fossil fuel industry's PR, EVs are actually:

1. much **cheaper to run**, especially if you charge using rooftop solar. It's more than

10x cheaper to charge at home than at a fast charger. You only use fast chargers when travelling long distances.

- 2. extremely **cheap to maintain** no combustion engine causing damage to vehicle parts, no gearbox, very few moving parts
- 3. **clean** they do not emit toxic fumes into the air, thus greatly reducing very harmful air pollution
- 4. **quiet** so quiet they have to ping when backing to warn pedestrians to keep clear
- 5. **more efficient** they do not waste energy in producing unwanted heat, as a combustion engine does
- 6. very nippy EVs have excellent acceleration



## TRADITIONAL VEHICLE AND FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY WORKING HARD TO DISCREDIT EVS! (CONT.)

- 7. much easier to drive
- 8. **safer** they are less likely to have accidents because of modern driver assistance technology on board
- 9. an EV has a much, **much lower chance of catching fire** than a combustion vehicle. Really!
- 10. have batteries that last a long time!

A new study released by Australian used car marketplace Pickles, shows that electric vehicles maintain more than 90 per cent of their battery health, even after 120,000 kms and more than four years on the road.

It challenges common fears about EV battery degradation, which are cited as one of the biggest barriers to purchasing an EV. One 2023 report from the Green Finance Institute found 62 per cent of the respondents said they would not purchase an EV because of concerns about battery lifespan.

Hyundai EVs showed an impressive 99.31 per cent battery health after 120,000 kms, while BYD was a close second at 98.62 per cent, exceeding Tesla's previous record.

## TO HEAR FIRST-HAND FROM EV OWNERS, JOIN THE EUROBEV MEET-UP!

The next EuroBEV meeting has been postponed to this Sunday, 23
February. We'll meet at noon for lunch at the lovely Mossy Point Cafe.
Please RSVP to <a href="mailto:andrew.john.everard@gmail.com">andrew.john.everard@gmail.com</a>
We'd love to chat with you about the pleasures
and issues of driving electric.





### Electric Vehicles Fact #1



A switch to electric vehicles from diesel and petrol would stop over \$67 billion dollars of our national wealth being sent overseas annually for imported diesel and petrol. 91% of the diesel and petrol Australia uses is imported.

Source: The Australia Institute, 21 April 2022



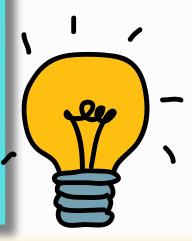
## Nuclear Power Fact #1



Nuclear reactors will take much longer to build - the first nuclear plant wouldn't open until 2036, if it is even built on time. Committing to build nuclear reactors would keep the polluting, old coal-fired power stations running years beyond their As nuclear power

As nuclear power will be the most expensive source of new energy this will result in power bills increasing significantly.

\*Source: Economist Stephen Hamilton opinion in the Australian Financial Review, 16 December 2024, quoted by Adam Morton in The Guardian, 17 December 2024



## It's a great time to join SHASA!

"THE MEDIA EXAGGERATES NEGATIVE NEWS. THIS DISTORTION HAS CONSEQUENCES." -- STEPHEN PINKER. ENLIGHTENMENT NOW. 2018

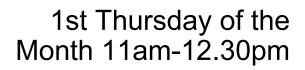
Don't be overwhelmed by all the bad news, good news, fake news, breaking news, fact-free news — break the cycle and join SHASA! Be part of a group! Work on projects to reduce emissions in the Eurobodalla, and help us become more resilient. It's only \$5. You can join via the SHASA website at www.shasa.com.au

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INFO ON SHASA (ZOOM) MEMBERS' MEETING...

# Come Along And Have A Say At The SHASA Monthly Members Zoom Meeting!





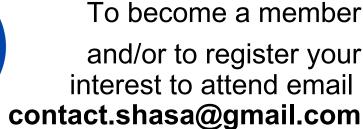






Zoom meeting with link provided to members wishing to attend

2



3



NEXT MEETINGS THURSDAY 6 MARCH THURSDAY 3 APRIL



SHASA and Eurobodalla Shire Council are celebrating Earth Hour with an evening at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden on Saturday March 22 from 5-6pm. Check out Eventbrite for more info and to book. Copy this link:



https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/earth-hour-energy-and-solar-at-home-tickets-1227114335009



#### SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY

Have you built or retrofitted a house with elements of sustainability? Maybe you've gone off gas, added solar, re-glazed? Or gone the whole way, and built using sustainable materials? Many people want to know how it was done — they would love to hear YOUR story!

Consider opening your home to the public on Sustainable House Day. Register online by <a href="mailto:this Sunday 23rd February">this Sunday 23rd February</a> at <a href="https://sustainablehouseday.com">https://sustainablehouseday.com</a>... so get a wriggle on! Council will once again support the event, and you can contact Sustainability Projects Officer, Kirsten Pitot, for Council-related questions. Renew is the authority to contact for SHD questions.

Email: Kirsten.Pitot@esc.nsw.gov.au



## SHASA MINI-EXPO @ BATEMANS BAY MARKETS

Could you spare an hour or so to help out on SHASA's stall at the Batemans Bay Markets on Sunday 16 March?

It's always fun to get together with other SHASA members, talk to interested locals and visitors, and spread the word about electric vehicles, solar panels and



and batteries, community activities, and the low-carbon lifestyle. We'll set up from 8am and bump out between 12 and 1pm. If you can help, please contact Kathryn or Andrea at SHASA. We'd love to have a few electric cars for people to look at — it's a good way to start a conversation with an interested person. SHASA can arrange for test drives, too. Do you have an EV to show off?

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WITH DR MICHELLE HAMROSI

0-0-0-0 EVENTS

SHASA member Dr Michelle Hamrosi has been spearheading

innovative work on the role of general practice in disaster preparedness, as well as disaster preparedness for parents of infants (see the following pages for more info on the ABA Bushfire Project and event).

Dr Hamrosi says: "Over a year ago now, I had the vision of a GP journal edition focusing on disaster-related topics, and this month that vision was realised. Thanks to the editors and all the amazing contributing doctors: Karleen Gribble, Kim Loo, Lai Heng Fo, Rowena Ivers, Katie Mae and many others."

**News GP story:** www1.racgp.org.au/newsgp/professional/further-push-for-better-gp-integration-in-disaster

Australian Journal of General Practice - Disaster Management edition:

https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2025/january-february

NEWS

## Further push for 'better GP integration' in disaster management

Long after a disaster ends, GPs remain as an integral community support. But how can their role be better integrated and recognised?



'However, disasters don't just affect our patients; they impact us, our families, and our clinics as well.'



GPs play a crucial role in equipping communities with the knowledge and resources to prepare f disasters, one expert says.



Dr Michelle Hamrosi's experience with a natural disaster in her community motivated her to create 'something positive out of the hardship'.

Spurred by her first-hand experience of the Black Summer bushfires, Dr Hamrosi has spearheaded research, presented and published on the role of general practice in disaster management

Since 2019, an estimated 84% of Australians report being directly affected by at least one climate-related disaster, outside of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the undeniable mental health impacts and GPs' role in supporting these explored in *AIGP*.

## A SAFER FUTURE FOR EUROBODALLA'S YOUNGEST RESIDENTS

During the 2019–20 Black Summer bushfires, families in Eurobodalla faced immense challenges protecting their infants and young children. Pregnant women, babies, and toddlers were among the most vulnerable, yet a lack of targeted disaster planning left families struggling with unsafe evacuation centers, limited support, and long-term health risks. Recognising this gap, the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) launched the Community Protection for Infants and Young Children in Bushfire Emergencies Project (ABA Bushfire Project) in 2022, funded by the Australian Government and spearheaded locally by Dr Michelle Hamrosi.

Local families played a key role in shaping this initiative. Insights from the Babies and Young Children in the Black Summer (BiBS) Study highlighted the need for better preparedness and resources for families with young children. This led to the development of tools like evacuation kit checklists, breastfeeding guides, emergency animations, and training modules for responders. Families and emergency services in Eurobodalla collaborated to refine these resources, ensuring they addressed real needs on the ground.

While significant progress has been made, the ABA Bushfire Project continues to advocate for better emergency planning and funding to establish Mother Baby Areas. Its success has gained national recognition, inspiring other regions and organisations to adopt similar strategies. For more information about the project and resources, visit the ABA's website.

The ABA Bushfire Project Team would like to invite SHASA members to join them in celebrating the project's achievements at their end-of-project celebration at the Botanic Garden next Thursday, February 27, from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Please RSVP Sunday 23 February by copying this link: <a href="https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?">https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?</a>
<a href="mailto:id=2WPrWF6FhEqITjnhSL\_0U0CcNNMNtIxLgpN0Zpo5nytUQUZGVIM5">id=2WPrWF6FhEqITjnhSL\_0U0CcNNMNtIxLgpN0Zpo5nytUQUZGVIM5</a>
<a href="mailto:NIUzREtEU1I0UTZLSTc1RzE1Ui4u&route=shorturl">NIUzREtEU1I0UTZLSTc1RzE1Ui4u&route=shorturl</a>



Australian Breastfeeding Association

invites you to the

## The Bushfire Project's closing event



#### Date

Thursday 27th Febuary 2025 5:30pm - 6:30pm

#### Location

Banksia Room, Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens

#### Details

Join us for nibbles and drinks as we share our project's success in the local community and beyond.

**RSVP** Please RSVP by 13th of February by scanning QR code.

RSVP deadline extended to Feb 23





Australian
Breastfeeding
Association



Seniors are invited to celebrate the NSW Seniors Festival (3-16 March), with a free and informative talk about digital technology and emergency preparedness.

**Seniors TECH TALK** 

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 10:30 AM

**Bay Pavilions** 

12 Vesper St, Batemans Bay

Book via the following link:

bpav.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salese

vent/146011

Or phone **The Tec Exec** on **1300 366 802** 

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ACCESS TO RELIABLE INTERNET WHERE YOU LIVE ?

You could win a Starlink Satellite Internet Package which includes a satellite dish to ensure fast internet guaranteed for a full year!



The Tec Exec are teaming up with SHASA to offer the opportunity to win a 12 month Starlink Satellite Internet Package.

Scan the QR Code to find out more.







shasa.com.au



## DO YOU USE A COUNCIL-OWNED FACILITY THAT NEEDS AN UPGRADE?

SHASA is partnering with the Eurobodalla Shire Council to apply for energy upgrades to council-owned, community-accessed buildings under the Community Buildings Partnership Grant. If you are a community group wanting to improve your local club house, hall, function centre or other facility, please register your interest with Sustainability Supervisor, Alex King. The grants will be available in both 2025 and 2026.

Email: alexandra.king@esc.nsw.gov.au

For more: https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-

building-partnership

#### **CUTTING ENERGY COSTS IN YOUR BUSINESS**

As a business owner, you might be hearing the growing chatter about power purchase agreements (PPAs). But what are they, and why should you consider one?

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) guarantee stable electricity prices and support new renewable energy capacity. Negotiating the perfect contract can be tricky, and the council is providing a series of information sessions in February/March 2025 to help you find your way. Register your interest with Council's Sustainability Projects Officer, Kirsten Pitot via email: Kirsten.Pitot@esc.nsw.gov.au

#### FREE LOCAL NEWS



For all your local news and community events, subscribe free to the Moruya Mail at <a href="www.moruyamail.com.au">www.moruyamail.com.au</a> or <a href="mailto:hello@moruyamail.com.au">hello@moruyamail.com.au</a> You will receive a comprehensive newspaper electronically every Wednesday.

#### TILBA HALLS PROJECT UPDATE

A very happy project team at Tilba celebrated the start of building work on the Central Tilba Halls in December 2024. The project will deliver new facilities, including a commercial kitchen, designated meeting room and storage area, increasing capacity to 100 people.

The upgrade and extension project was planned 20 years ago, but funding wasn't available. In June 2021, SHASA and the Committee were awarded \$1.048 million from the Federal and NSW governments' Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF).

Costs increased markedly over the three year planning and approval process (to \$3.03 million) from the initial budget, but the funding body has accepted the resulting upgrade will reduce costs, improve essential safety and provide much better community resources for Tilba's residents and the surrounding area.

From SHASA's point of view, the essential improvements include solar panels, batteries and an emergency power generator so the halls can operate during emergencies, plus a lift from upstairs so that the new toilet facilities downstairs can meet accessibility standards. There will also be a fire booster pump for the sprinkler system that will be in a separate enclosure. With these facilities in place, residents of the **National Trust villages of Central** Tilba and Tilba Tilba have a heatwave and bushfire smoke haven in the downstairs meeting room. Our congratulations to this hard-working and effective project team.



Tilba Halls Committee: Tony Lowe (SHASA Project Manager), Sally Pryor (Secretary CTSOAT), Stephanie Chiu (our architect and Proj Mgr + SHASA), Janine Halasz (President CTSOAT), Stuart Absalom and Pete Phillips (both SHASA)

# TUROSS HEAD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR FAIR ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FUNDING FOR THE FAR SOUTH COAST

#### 2025 FEDERAL ELECTION — CALL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

For the Far South Coast (FSC), the THPA is demanding that all candidates for the 2025 Federal election in Eden-Monaro and Gilmore commit to:

- 1. fix the lack of access to healthcare in the FSC caused by 40 years of neglect by successive governments
- 2. guarantee equality in healthcare funding on a per person basis in FSC communities, when compared to city populations
- 3. fix the current healthcare financing system which has significantly disadvantaged rural communities for 40 years
- 4. focus the initial funding on increased access to medical care in each township, to be delivered by teams of additional GPs and associated primary care providers

#### Why should SHASA support our demands?

SHASA, like all volunteer community organisations, is the last line of defence for our communities when they don't get treated fairly by governments. Access to healthcare is a major community issue impacting everyone, young and old. The 2025 federal election is the last and best chance to fix 40 years of neglect in healthcare by all political parties.

#### **Background**

THPA has had enough of successive governments neglecting inequitable funding and substandard access to healthcare in FSC communities. We won't put up with another 40 years of higher rates of premature deaths and delayed access to care for serious illness.

#### THPA HEALTHCARE PUSH (CONT)

The underfunding for rural communities compared to cities was reported in the 2023 National Rural Health Alliance NOUS REPORT at \$1,000 per person (2025 estimate adjusted for inflation). This is approx. \$83 million per year over the Far South Coast or nearly \$1 billion over the past two governments.

Outcomes for the Far South Coast if candidate elected to government:

- 1. the first budget to fund the FSC annual shortfall of \$1,000 per person
- 2. to achieve similar access to general practice and primary care as a city population
- 3. to deliver services which specifically meet the needs of individual communities
- 4. to have decision-making on services made at the local community/GP team level
- 5. to eliminate bureaucratic barriers so GPs/ primary care providers can focus on patient care
- 6. to eliminate the very large delayed and unmet need for medical care
- 7. to reduce GP waiting times to 'same day' for urgent care and 'within two days' for routine care for all patients
- 8. to establish GP and primary care provider team arrangements to improve care
- 9. to remove patient cost as a barrier for first point of contact GP care

#### What to do next?

Support by individuals and community organisations is the only way to get political action on fair access and funding for healthcare. Don't wait another 40 years. Add your support now!

## COPY + PASTE THE LINK TO SUPPORT THE THPA'S HEALTHCARE CAMPAIGN:

https://www.thpa.com.au/health-2025

# Rock On For Climate Action Rock On For Climate Action Rock On For Climate Action



























ROCK ON FOR CLIMATE ACTION WAS SUPPORTED BY FUNDING RECEIVED FROM MONASH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE'S FIRE TO FLOURISH EUROBODALLA AND EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

# IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE: EUROBODALLA 2022 SHASA BUSHFIRE \$ HEATWAVE HAVEN STRATEGY

In partnership with community organisations that run facilities, SHASA has undertaken upgrades on seven buildings so far:

- Red Door Hall, Anglican Parish (solar, batteries, air conditioning, blinds, insulation, kitchen upgrade)
- Moruya PreSchool Kindergarten (solar, batteries, backup generator, pump, fire hoses)
- CWA Moruya (solar, batteries, backup gas generator, air conditioning, HEPA filters, electrical upgrade, LED lighting and window shutters)
- CWA Narooma (new roof, insulation, solar, batteries, new flooring, kitchen upgrade, window shutters)
- Uniting Church Catalina (solar, batteries, backup generators, HEPA filters, accessible toilet, washing machine, fridges, shelving, replacement of gas heaters with air conditioners)
- Anglican Church Batemans Bay (electrical upgrade, LED lighting, solar, and batteries)
- Moruya Surf Club (solar batteries, backup generator, LED lighting, air conditioning and filters)

SHASA is currently seeking grant funding to upgrade the following buildings:

- Southern Life Church Moruya
- Broulee Surf Club
- Anglican Parish Batemans Bay (Stage 3)

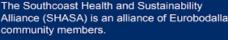
SHASA believes it is time to update the strategy to a Community Resilience Strategy and add facilities that need just solar and batteries to reduce their electricity costs. If you know of a community building that may benefit from SHASA's assistance, please send an email with details to <a href="mailto:contact.shasa@gmail.com">contact.shasa@gmail.com</a>

## SHASA BUSHFIRE & HEATWAVE HAVEN STRATEGY UPDATE (CONT.)

#### Batemans Bay and District Heatwave and Bushfire Havens











## SHASA BUSHFIRE & HEATWAVE HAVEN STRATEGY UPDATE (CONT.)

## Moruya and District Heatwave and Bushfire Havens





The Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) is an alliance of Eurobodalla community members.





## SHASA BUSHFIRE & HEATWAVE HAVEN STRATEGY UPDATE (CONT.)

## Narooma and District Heatwave and Bushfire Havens

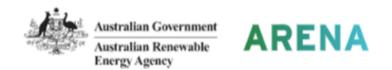




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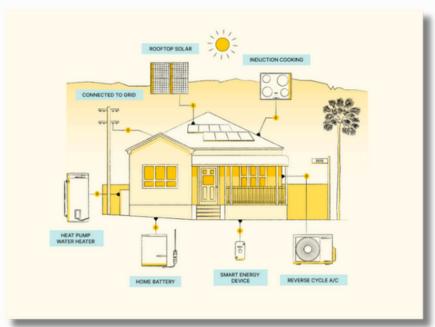






## ARENA (AUSTRALIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY) FUNDING RESTORED FOLLOWING TRIAL SUCCESS

Electrify 2515 is delivering energy-efficient electric appliances and consumer energy resources in participating homes in the suburbs of Austinmer, Clifton, Coledale, Scarborough, Thirroul and Wombarra, near Wollongong in NSW, along with smart energy management devices to help customers manage their own electricity use.





**Above left:** Replacing outdated appliances with new, efficient electric ones, allows households to manage when they use and charge devices and delivers savings. **Above right:** Community campaign materials from Thirroul rollout of 2515 trial

Good news! The initial reports of the savings and convenience delivered by the pilot project have encouraged other communities to welcome possible pilot projects near them. At the end of 2024, the Government made ARENA responsible for supporting community electrification and also restored ARENA's funding, which the previous government did not renew.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen asked ARENA to fund more community electrification demonstration projects across the country. ARENA is now seeking more opportunities to spread the Electrify 2515 pilot beyond NSW, across the ACT, Western Australia, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. The funding could help thousands of households, including renters, secure their homes from bill shock with more solar, batteries, energy-efficient appliances and shared community energy storage.

This is the first time Minister Bowen has used the statutory ministerial referral powers to ask the ARENA board to look at backing specific projects. ARENA looks at each proposed project on merit, so communities will need to apply for consideration.

"ARENA pilot projects supporting home electrification will help create valuable insights into how households can transition to renewables and smart energy systems to cut energy costs and reduce emissions," said Chris Bowen. "I'd like to thank senators David Pocock, David Van, Jacqui Lambie and Lidia Thorpe for their ongoing advocacy for cheaper, cleaner energy to run homes and their commitment to renewable energy."





#### March in March for Forests

#### **Sun 23 March 2025**

It's time to end native forest logging

Ulladulla, Bega, Canberra, Sydney Bellingen, Northern Rivers, Newcastle Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide

More locations to be announced Sign up <a href="https://marchforforests.org/">https://marchforforests.org/</a>

11am Rally Ulladulla Civic Centre Lawns

10am stalls, ice creams, facepainting 12 Noon March for the forests

1.30pm Takayna Film Screening Ulladulla Civic Centre Lower Auditorium \$15 Tix

https://takayna.org/screening/ulladulla-screening/

#### **Bob Brown Foundation**

Listen to our political representatives outline a plan to secure full protection of NSW public forests. Forest wildlife needs a permanent end to logging to recover from the devastation of the Black Summer fires. Protecting native forests creates biodiverse carbon storage to buffer runaway global heating. Local mountain bike trails in Mogo would be protected from logging, boosting international ecotourism, including the upcoming Sea Otter Classic.

## THE REPURPOSING FOR RESILIENCE [RFR] TEAM IS BACK!

The RfR team is back from break and ready for what promises to be another busy and productive year! The RfR Solar Reuse Centre is back to normal operating hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 9.30am - 2.30pm.

#### Drop into the transfer station to:

- access free advice & assistance from volunteer electrical / solar contractors (Fridays 9.30-11.30)
- shop used equipment and waste art online via www.rfreurobodalla.com.au
- meet members of the volunteer team responsible for operating this first-of-a-kind centre, and talk about membership, services and upcoming workshops over a cuppa in the alfresco area... all built from waste!
- take a seat under the new shade structure installed during the holidays, providing much needed protection from the harsh elements
- look out for the community access solar power trailer! It will be dishing up the food and beverage goods shortly at Cobargo Folk Festival and then Council's Earth hour, inside the beautiful Regional Botanic Garden.





#### SHASA STICKERS

SHASA has three new stickers! You can pick up SHASA stickers at our stalls — the next one will be on 16 March at Batemans Bay markets. Or, send your request with your address to <a href="mailto:contact.shasa@gmail.com">contact.shasa@gmail.com</a> and we'll post them to you.

