



ANNUAL REPORT



2017



The ATA exists to enable, represent and inspire people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.





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A photograph of a modern house with solar panels on the roof. In the foreground, there is a garden with a wooden bench, a large white umbrella, and various plants. The sky is blue with some clouds.

ABOUT

ATA

The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation providing practical, independent advice on sustainable living.

Established in 1980, we have helped thousands of households save money and reduce their environmental footprint with information on home energy efficiency, renewable energy, water saving, materials reuse and waste.

The ATA delivers in three main areas:



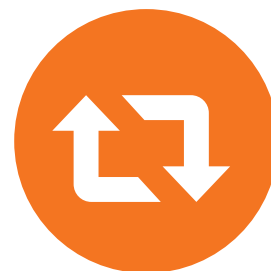
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

The ATA has 14 active branches across Australia and more than 6500 members who are actively creating a sustainable future in their own homes and communities. The ATA provides an online and over-the-phone advice service with ATA sustainability experts.



COMMUNICATIONS

The ATA provides independent information on sustainable solutions through our magazines *ReNew: technology for a sustainable future* and *Sanctuary: modern green homes*, as well as our websites and online tools, Sustainable House Day and Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events, and in the traditional and social media.



ADVOCACY & PROJECTS

The ATA advocates in government and industry arenas for policies that support household sustainability. The ATA conducts research into new and emerging technologies and associated consumer behaviour. We also provide consultancy services based on our technical expertise and on-the-ground projects in Australia and East Timor.

ATA'S VISION

To foster communities which grow and prosper in balance with natural ecosystems, living sustainably through the improved use of technology and practices to better manage our natural resources.

ATA'S MISSION

The ATA exists to enable, represent and inspire people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.

ATA'S ASPIRATIONS

ATA aims to be a highly trusted and sought-after source of knowledge, expertise and inspiration on sustainable technology and lifestyles for households and communities.

We will maintain an independent and credible knowledge base built on our technical expertise and our members' practical experiences.

We will support individuals and communities (as they collaborate with business and governments) to accelerate the adoption of practical and effective sustainability solutions.

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ATA'S IMPACT

The ATA engages with more than 250,000 people each year around Australia and beyond. We work with more than 6500 members in a network of 14 active branches throughout the country.

Our community of climate change action includes readers of our two market-leading sustainability magazines *ReNew* and *Sanctuary*, attendants and participants in our Sustainable House Day and Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events, users of our Sunulator and Tankulator online tools, people contacting our advice service, volunteers and project partners.

The ATA's leadership and impact was recognised at the United Nations Association of Australia's 2017 Climate Action Awards. The ATA received awards in the Climate Change Leadership category for informing and encouraging people on home sustainability over 37 years and the Climate Education and Engagement award for making Sustainable House Day a national success.

Climate Change Leadership Award judges commended the ATA's use of a "wide range of channels and activities (from magazines to advisory services and public events) to deliver tangible support and value to households, community and business."

On the Climate Education and Engagement Award, the judges said: "Sustainable House Day is exceptional in matching a growing community interest in domestic sustainability practices with those enthusiastic and talented people who have successfully made their homes more sustainable."



WINNER

ATA uses a “wide range of channels and activities (from magazines to advisory services and public events) to deliver tangible support and value to households, community and business.”

UNAA Judges



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CEO'S REPORT

In Australia, renewable energy and carbon emissions targets are once again being used as a political football, in which there are no winners. In fact, it's hard not to feel each time we take two steps forward with action on climate change that we also take three steps back.

However, despite community frustration with political leadership in this area, there are positive stories to tell. The momentum for a low-emissions future grows apace with the price of renewable energy continuing to fall – it is now cheaper to develop solar and wind energy than new coal-fired power stations in most countries. And we have industry leaders calling for certainty on energy policy so that they can get on with the job.

As Audrey Zibelman, CEO of the Australian Energy Market Operator, reinforced at a recent speech to the ATA's Melbourne Branch, the transition to a low-carbon future is already happening. When once people used to think of change in the energy industry in terms of decades, they're instead seeing it happen in months.

So much uncertainty and change highlights the role the community is playing – not only advocating for effective government policy but leading by example. We need to ensure the transition is fair and equitable and that everyone is brought along on the journey.

At the ATA we continue to provide independent advice to help renters, apartment dwellers and disadvantaged communities. Working with our partners in the social sector we advocate for reform of the energy market to ensure it is of benefit to consumers as well as the planet. Delivering on-the-ground projects in East Timor and to

community groups across Australia we put knowledge into action for a fair and just, renewable energy future.

The ATA's reach and impact on taking practical action on climate change was acknowledged at the United Nations Association of Australia's Climate Action Awards, winning the Climate Change Leadership award.

Climate Change Leadership award judges commended the ATA for being "active in disadvantaged communities and developing countries. ATA members have played the role of 'venture consumers' through successive waves of clean technology, and use their individual technical expertise and experience to support system change (including through regulatory processes)."

It is affirming to have the ATA's 35 years of leadership on climate change acknowledged, and we are grateful to our founding members for their foresight on taking practical action for a sustainable future.

Building on these foundations at the ATA, we are looking to the future and how we can accelerate the transition to a sustainable future. We need to act now!

The good news is that the knowledge, technology and solutions to enable households and communities to reduce their carbon emissions and save money are available. Australia does not need more coal-fired power stations or unconventional gas drilling, we need more efficient, healthier and resilient homes and communities.

At the ATA every year we are helping hundreds of thousands of people make a practical difference and share their learnings with their communities



(and their political representatives). Thank you to all our members, partners and supporters who are part of our community of change.

The ATA cannot solve climate change – no one organisation can – but we can and do empower people like you to take responsible and effective action to reduce Australia's (and the world's) carbon footprint

Donna Luckman
ATA CEO

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We face major challenges that simply must be addressed. At the ATA we recognise that the way we live is the key to change our impact upon our economy, society and environment.

Thankfully, the ATA occupies a vital position to show the way forward. In fact, the ATA is the best-placed organisation to inspire, engage and advocate for sustainable living for Australians.

From sustainable homes that are low-cost, low-impact and high-comfort, to electric vehicles and low-carbon transport, to bountiful gardens, the ATA shows this is not a dream but a reality and a clear path for all to enjoy a sustainable future. At the ATA we believe this is achievable, scalable and essential.

Fortunately, the ATA has the essential assets to pursue and enable change for the benefit of Australia and Australians. The ATA is unique as a national, member-based, independent organisation with a registered charitable trust. Our assets also include strong income streams, popular and high quality events and publications to

engage, and most importantly a dedicated, well-informed and growing national membership.

Over the last year the ATA has achieved the following:

- Taken full ownership and responsibility for Sustainable House Day. This is the largest national public event on sustainable living in Australia.
- Won two awards from the United Nations Association of Australia for climate change leadership and education.
- Completed ten Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events with 424 people and businesses.
- Completed the Google Impact program installing 600 solar-powered lighting systems in remote villages in East Timor, plus providing training and a sustaining business model returning income to villages.
- Supported communities and organisations to install renewable energy with our Sunulator tool and expert consulting services.
- Extended our confidential and independent sustainable home living advice service for members to the public on a fee-for-service basis.
- Produced magazines with continued growth in subscriptions and sales.
- Highest number and growing memberships in the history of ATA.
- Highest donations and sponsorships in the history of ATA (see a list of some of our supporters on page 28).

These provide the bedrock for the substantial investments we have made into the fundamentals of the organisation so it can grow its profile, revenue streams, efficiency, influence and impact. In the next year you will see the fruits of this investment. We will unite our collection of websites, commence our fundraising program and complete the new CRM database.

In the next few months we will also complete our work and consultations on our Strategy 2025. Since early 2017, the Board and staff have researched and debated trends and a range of 'Big Hairy Audacious Goals' that may become our strategic directions to address Australia's typically poor and unsustainable housing and high-impact, high-cost living. We look forward to presenting and sharing this strategy so that we continue to build upon our successes, and join forces with existing and new members, supporters, partners and donors to create the future that Australia and Australians need and deserve in the 21st century.

For all this, a big thank you to my fellow Board members, ATA branch convenors and their teams, our dedicated staff and all our members and supporters who

Helen Millicer
ATA President



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The ATA walks the talk by ensuring that our own practices and operations are sustainable. We are continually researching, re-assessing and improving our operations to minimise our environmental footprint. Here are some of the activities the ATA undertakes at our rented office:



WASTE

All office food waste is composted and the compost used in staff members' gardens. Paper, glass, cardboard, plastic containers and aluminium are recycled, as well as electronic waste, polystyrene, CDs, ink and toner cartridges, plastic film, batteries and light globes. Recycled bags are offered to customers who make purchases at the ATA office.

TRANSPORT

The ATA office is located in Melbourne's CBD with staff walking, using public transport or riding a bike to commute to work. The ATA uses the GoGet carshare company, and the hybrid and wholly electric vehicles in its fleet when they are available. Air travel emissions are offset through the Community Climate Chest (C3), a joint project of the ATA and ACX Argyle. The initiative allows proceeds from the purchase of carbon offsets and GreenPower to go back to environment groups.

OFFICE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

We choose fair-trade, organic products for staff tea, coffee and sugar. Honey and soy sauce are sourced from an organic supplier and our own containers taken and refilled. We purchase 100% post-consumer waste tissues and toilet paper and bulk eco dishwashing liquid and eco hand wash to refill our own dispensers. The most environmentally friendly stationery options, postage bags and packing materials are purchased where possible and items reused, refilled and recycled when they can be. Any new office equipment including printers and computers are chosen based on energy consumption, consumables and recyclability.

ENERGY

The ATA purchases offsets for its office electricity through our C3 social enterprise. Our solar workshop at CERES Environmental Park in East Brunswick, Victoria, has a solar power system that feeds clean energy back into the mains electricity grid. The ATA's rented office has energy-efficient lighting and active heating and cooling systems. There are openable windows

and fans which can be zoned. We have installed an eKo smart-meter display which enables us to monitor in real time our electricity consumption, and ensure all standby loads are turned off at the end of the working day.

PAPER AND PRINTING

All office documents and brochures are printed on recycled stock using vegetable-based inks. Our office paper is 100% recycled post-consumer waste and is recommended by The Wilderness Society in their *Ethical Paper Guide*. ATA membership cards are also 100% post-consumer recycled stock, are fully recyclable and supplied by a sustainable printer. We are always looking for ways to minimise the amount of office copy paper used and prefer e-marketing options and use of email instead of paper products for promotions.

For the printing of the magazines we choose printing companies that use best practice ISO14001 Environmental Management System and print on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified stock.

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ADVOCACY & PROJECTS

The ATA is involved in a range of projects spanning research, advocacy, consulting to governments, businesses, households and community energy groups, and solar installation, training and support work in East Timor.

Throughout 2016-17 the ATA was a leading commentator and advisor on fuel switching (fossil to renewable), energy storage and whole-of-house energy management. We take a holistic approach when advising members, households and businesses, looking for opportunities to reduce carbon and bills at the same time, and put people and organisations on a long-term path to sustainable energy management.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2016-17

RESEARCH

- Through the further development of ATA's Sunulator solar and battery model, we became a leading commentator on the technical and economic aspects of solar battery systems for Australian households. This led to the ATA (in partnership with the Total Environment Centre) developing Australia's first *Consumer Guide to Batteries* on behalf of the New South Wales Government.
- In 2017 we further progressed our groundbreaking household fuel choice research (*Are We Still Cooking with Gas?* 2014), updating and significantly expanding the capability of our in-house models to understand in detail the true costs and benefits of dual-fuel (electric and gas) homes versus all-electric solar homes.

ON-GROUND PROJECTS

- More than 600 people attended the two-day inspirational Community Energy Congress in Melbourne in February 2017, hearing international speakers, sharing Australian success stories and learning about the tools and resources available to community groups. The ATA was proud to have been a leading organiser of the event.
- The ATA undertook community engagement and project feasibility and developed business cases for a range of community energy projects in Wodonga, Inverloch, Mirboo North, Wonthaggi, Leongatha and Natimuk. The final business cases will total almost two megawatts of solar capacity, while more than 100 sites have been analysed to identify future project opportunities.
- C3, the ATA's community carbon trading project, again had a successful year with over 1,800 tonnes and almost \$70,000 of offsets purchased through the program by a variety of household, business and local government purchasers.
- In partnership with the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, the ATA delivered an innovative pilot project to assist not-for-profit organisations identify and implement sustainable energy measures across their buildings. This frees up valuable operating funds to re-invest into their core work. Based on the success of the pilot project, a scaled-up program will be launched in late 2017.



① The ATA took a lead role in organising the second Community Energy Congress, which brought together more than 600 people from across the country to discuss how to strengthen Australia’s growing community energy sector and make the transition to clean energy faster and fairer for all.

- As part of the Google Impact grant, installed 607 household solar PV systems, training 30 village solar technicians in 12 remote villages in East Timor, directly benefitting 4200 people.
- Provided support to the First Nations Renewable Energy Alliance that was formed at the Community Energy Congress.

ADVOCACY

- The ATA led the thinking and development of early policy options on consumer protection relating to emerging technology in the energy market. This work covered a range of technology and policy issues including behind-the-meter consumer protection, stand-alone power systems, demand management and dispute resolution.

As a result, the COAG Energy Council requested Energy Consumers Australia implement a formal Code of Conduct by mid-2018. The ATA will continue to be engaged in this process.

- The ATA was invited on to the reference group of the Essential Services Commission’s review into the Victorian solar feed-in tariff, and the review resulted in the most substantial feed-in tariff methodology to date, encompassing environmental and public health values of distributed generation. The ATA hopes this will be the framework for other feed-in tariff reviews around the country.
- With micro-grids becoming ever more attractive, and the financing of solar through Power Purchase Agreements and lease arrangements, the ATA engaged in a number of reviews considering appropriate regulation for sellers of products and services that are not regulated by the traditional Retail Licence obligations.
- In response to Standards Australia’s blunt first version of the Draft Standard for grid-connected solar batteries, the ATA, along with a number of other organizations, advocated for the re-classification of lithium batteries on fire risk based on their specific chemical properties.
- The ATA compiled a detailed review of the Finkel Report for our members and other interested organisations in the energy market. We continue to be invited and engaged in a number of reform processes advocating for a low carbon future that benefits households.



SOLAR LIGHTING SYSTEMS HELP 4200 PEOPLE IN EAST TIMOR

With support from the Google Impact grant, the ATA and our partners completed a comprehensive household solar lighting project in Timor-Leste. ATA volunteers designed a new household solar system with enhanced functionality, including a USB charge port for mobile phones and torches, automatic night light for safety, tamper-proof casing and in-built data loggers.

Working with our Timorese partners, CNEFP and Natiles, more than 600 household solar systems were installed in 12 off-grid villages, directly benefitting about 4200 people. With four extra hours of light each day, villagers are doing more work and study and saving money previously spent on kerosene and candles. With clean lighting, people also reported feeling safer in their homes and their children having fewer health problems related to indoor air pollution.

The ATA equipped CNEFP to train two local technicians in each village. The ATA's community engagement partner Natiles worked with local leaders to help each community set up a village management committee and maintenance fund.

To facilitate increased co-ordination and sharing of data with the Timor-Leste Government, the ATA and volunteers developed a sophisticated solar mapping database, showing locations and details of completed solar projects as well as locations for future projects.

*"Life is better with Lampu Diak... my family is safer.
The children can study at night and their eyes don't hurt
any more while they study."* Remixio villager



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COMMUNI- CATIONS

The ATA communicates independent information on sustainable solutions through our magazines *ReNew: technology for a sustainable future* and *Sanctuary: modern green homes* as well as our websites and online tools, conducts Sustainable House Day and Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events and promotes good news stories through traditional and social media.

The ATA continues to be the leading organisation providing important, independent and practical information and inspiration for households and communities through our many communication channels including:

- *ReNew: technology for a sustainable future* magazine, which reached an all-time high readership of 70,000.
- *Sanctuary: modern green homes* magazine, also at an all-time high readership of 37,000.
- More than 30,000 users of Tankulator, the ATA's online rainwater tank calculator.
- More than 4500 users of Sunulator, the ATA's solar and battery storage feasibility tool.
- More than 2700 readers of our e-books on a diverse range of home sustainability subjects.
- Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events held in conjunction with the City of Sydney, Randwick City Council, Ku-ring-gai Council, City of Whitehorse, Willoughby City Council, Mornington Peninsula Shire, Frankston City Council, City of Boroondara and City of Stonnington and at the Community Energy Congress. In all 424 people received 847 customised consultations with 167 experts.
- 17,250 people visited 154 homes across Australia on Sustainable House Day on Sunday, September 11. The event successfully garnered a significant level of media interest with a potential media readership/audience reach in excess of 160,000,000 as well as a social media campaign that reached more than 109,000 people.
- The ATA continued to address people living in apartments by working with the City of Melbourne on the third High Life Expo. The expo provided free advice and practical tips to apartment residents seeking to rein in high energy bills and improve the comfort of their buildings. We also partnered with the City of Sydney to conduct a Speed Date a Sustainability Expert event focusing on apartments at the SEE Sustainable Experience expo.



“Love your magazine, have been reading it for years and am now at the point where I am planning to (ideally) build my own in Victoria. I have years-worth of Sanctuary for reference and am so excited this info is available in such an elegant mag.”

Beth, Sanctuary subscriber, Brisbane

SANCTUARY: MODERN GREEN HOMES

Sanctuary’s role in introducing attractive and attainable sustainable homes to the Australian market has never been more important, and it remains Australia’s leading publication reflecting innovations in green residential housing.

This year, Sanctuary achieved its best ever distribution figures: subscription numbers have started to rebound, newsagency sales are trending up with estimated readership of 37,000. Digital engagement has reached new highs, with strong growth in both social and online audiences. Overall, it’s a positive story in a challenging publishing market.

With consumers increasingly concerned about housing affordability and energy bills, we have responded with features on prefabricated, modular and small-footprint construction; specials on multigenerational living and studio design; and compelling stories of energy-efficient households.

Sanctuary also complemented ATA events including Sustainable House Day and the High Life Exop, which encourages more sustainable apartments. Dedicated magazine issues supporting these events proved helpful in ATA’s advocacy to consumers and decision makers.



RENEW: TECHNOLOGY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

As always, ReNew’s readers helped frame the topics explored this year. In our Australian-made Special, a long-time member provided a slice of history, tracking his path from engineer to activist alongside the development of the renewables industry in Australia. Complementing our buyers guides, we tapped into our readers’ experiences with case studies demonstrating both DIY and professional installations of sustainable technology and providing how-tos, costs and results.

With growing community interest, we continued to provide leading in-depth information on home battery systems in our Off-grid and Hybrid Special, including the latest battery tech and what to consider when purchasing a system.

A new trend this year was increased interest from householders including transport in their transition to going all-electric, and we found many examples to explore in our Sustainable Transport Special.

Our subscription and membership base grew by 5% in 2016-17 and, with sales at shows, in newsagencies and online, ReNew reached an estimated readership of 70,000.

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SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY - CREATING IMPACT ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Sustainable House Day was organised for the first time exclusively by the ATA in 2016. The national event offers a unique opportunity for people to visit sustainable homes and see first-hand how to make their own homes more environmental, comfortable to live in and cheaper to run.

In 2016 a record 17,287 people visited 154 homes across Australia on Sunday, September 11. It successfully drew a significant level of media interest thanks to a media partnership with Porter Novelli, the dedicated efforts of ATA's in-house communications team and the support of participating homeowners and local groups. Media coverage included widespread radio interviews and numerous stories in print and online publications.

The potential media readership/audience reach of Sustainable House Day in 2016 was estimated to be in excess of 160,000,000 as well as a social media campaign reaching more than 109,000 people.

Sustainable House Day 2016 was sponsored by the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy, Bank Australia, Porter Novelli, ecostore Australia, Sustainability House, Solar Dwellings and EnviroShop. It was further supported by local councils as well as environmental, community and industry groups from all corners of Australia.

Swinburne University, as part of the CRC for Low Carbon Living, came on board to assist with pre- and post-event surveys to measure the impact of Sustainable House Day. The results were compelling:

- 32% of SHD attendees took action in including sustainable design, features and appliances in renovations or builds within one month of attending the event.
- 56% of attendees indicated they were planning to include sustainability in their renovation/build after attending SHD 2016.
- 86% of attendees shared their learning from SHD with friends and family.
- 57% of visitors had not attended Sustainable House Day before.

The ATA's organising effort and the impact of Sustainable House Day was recognised when the event won the United Nations Association of Australia's Climate Education and Engagement Award.

Sustainable House Day is a grassroots event from the ground up and everyone, from the homeowners, community groups, architects and designers, builders and experts, volunteers and sponsors, is part of the ATA's community of change taking practical action on sustainability.

“What surprised me was the diversity of the homes, sizes, budgets, finishes etc. It was such an inspiring day and made me realise that a lot is possible with limited finance and other resources.”

Visitor, Sustainable House Day 2016



MEMBERSHIP

The ATA has 6600 members (highest ever) and 14 branches across Australia actively practising environmental sustainability at home and in their community. Members are core to the ATA, creating change and helping others make change too.

Many of our member stories and experiences are showcased in *ReNew* and *Sanctuary* magazines. ATA members share their knowledge about new and emerging sustainable technology and practices, volunteering at events and opening their homes on Sustainable House Day, making information accessible to a wider audience.

Our network of members gives the ATA a wealth of knowledge. This information assists ATA's advocacy work for reform of the national energy market.

Our members walk the talk with more than 81% having implemented energy efficiency measures, 67% having installed solar PV, 50% solar hot water, 64% rainwater tanks and 69% water-saving measures in their homes.

ATA BRANCHES

ATA branches are local groups of ATA members with shared interests that meet regularly and provide members and non-members the opportunity to exchange experiences, information and ideas on sustainable living. Branches allow new initiatives to flourish and establish important community networks.

All elected branch representatives are volunteers and the ATA

is very appreciative of their enormous contribution.

During 2016-17 there were about 100 branch events reaching around 7800 people.

Branch activities included meetings with expert speakers, hands-on practical sessions, forums, site visits, film nights and ATA stalls at public events. Branches engaged with large crowd numbers at Tasmania's AGFEST and Toowoomba's Farmfest. We also had very large numbers of people attending special branch-run events such as the Melbourne Electric Vehicle Expo (3500 people) and Toowoomba Electric Vehicle Expo (1000 people).

A big thank you to all the committee members of our branches in:

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Canberra
- Geelong Electric Vehicle
- Melbourne
- Melbourne Electric vehicle
- Perth
- Sydney Central
- Sydney West
- Tasmania North
- Tasmania South
- Toowoomba
- Wollongong



1000 people saw the latest in electric vehicle models at the Electric Vehicle Expo organised by the ATA's Toowoomba Branch Electric at Toowoomba's Cobb & Co Museum.

ATA MEMBERS AS LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

DR WENDY Miller and her husband Ray have been part of the ATA family since 1997 when a renewable energy subject at the local TAFE made them keenly aware that what they were doing *now* impacted on their children's future.

As a family of five, they decided to try to get their all-electric house's stationary energy consumption down to one kilowatt-hour (kWh) per person per day. This meant renovating their hot 1970s house as finances allowed: installing ceiling insulation, changing roof colour, adding external window shading, purchasing energy-efficient appliances when replacements were needed and installing solar hot water and solar PV.

Over time (about eight years) this resulted in a reduction in electricity consumption from 22kWh per day to 5.7 (with four adults): about 1.4kWh per person per day. For a short time their solar PV system (installed in 2000) was even an officially registered power station on Australia's energy network! Wendy remembers:

"That was an interesting time at the start of the rooftop solar revolution. I remember, perhaps not so fondly, the robust discussions with government and the network to get 'permission' for our system to be connected. But it did lead, a number of years later, to being invited to Queensland's feed-in tariff discussions as a consumer advocate."

In 2008, as 'empty nesters', Ray and Wendy took advantage of a move to the Gold Coast to take their sustainability drive to the next level and construct their 9 Star 'eBay House'—so called because much of the construction and fitout (including the kitchen sink!) was purchased secondhand.

Wendy talks proudly of the rainwater collection, water and waste recycling system, the rooftop solar system and revegetation of the once bare block to not only produce food, but to support indigenous native plants and encourage bird, marsupial and reptile life.

Energy-wise their total daily consumption is about 4kWh per day—and all of that is well and truly met with their 1.7kW PV system.

"The more you do, the more you realise what needs to be done." In terms of the built environment she says that we need to think differently, and question just why Australia has settled on the standard "two adults, two kids, granite benches and air conditioning" type house.

"I've got nothing against granite benchtops," Wendy says, "but ideally we should focus first on getting the building envelope as good as we can, rather than focusing on bling and gadgets. If your house is designed and constructed well, it (like a boat) should not be leaky."

Her career as a senior research fellow in energy efficiency and housing at the Queensland University of Technology has meant exposure to the world. In Europe, she's seen new approaches to designing housing for non-traditional groupings, such as communities of single people all buying together, or collectives of families leading their own residential development.

Wendy believes the ATA and its publications provide essential services. Apart from the chance to share an idea or ask a question, the ATA is a voice for the people, a chance to be heard at governmental level, she says. Wendy was a long-time Brisbane Branch member and convenor, before shifting down the coast.

In eBay House Wendy and Ray are walking the talk, contributing to a much brighter, and greener, future for their community and grandchildren.



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TREASURER'S REPORT

The ATA reported a net surplus of \$3,112 for the year ended 30 June 2017, compared to a loss of \$12,064 in the previous year. Total revenue in 2016/17 was \$2,353,729 compared to \$2,089,578 in 2015/16. The association's main source of revenue were from membership and subscription fees, which were up 5.8% in 2016/17 to \$637,315. Membership numbers hit a record level of over 6,400 in 2016/17. Project management revenue was \$624,009, an 11.6% increase on the previous year, and publication revenue bounced back to \$560,842, a 17.6% increase on the previous year. Our supporters continue to demonstrate their commitment and provide incredible support to our activities, with donations up 30.7% to \$442,169 in 2016/17.

Overall operating costs were up 11.8% to \$2,350,617, which principally reflected an inflationary rise in staffing costs and increase in head count so as to develop new business lines. Employee expenses accounted for 58.4% of operating costs.

Healthy cash liquidity was maintained with year-end cash reserves of \$852,765. This shows that the ATA has adequate resources to meet its operational needs. Trade and other receivables were \$165,435 in 2016/17.

Looking forward, our focus is to reinvest money back into the organisation so that we can continue to diversify our revenue streams and increase our impact. Our budget for 2017/18, using conservative assumptions, is for a loss of \$168,000, reflecting investments in a new Customer Relationship Management database and the completion of new websites. Once these projects have been successfully completed, we expect the ATA will return to positive earnings in 2018/19.

In 2017, the ATA Board decided to review its auditor. We ran a very deliberate process and had several rounds of interviews. After appropriate consideration, it was decided to change from KPMG to Saward Dawson.

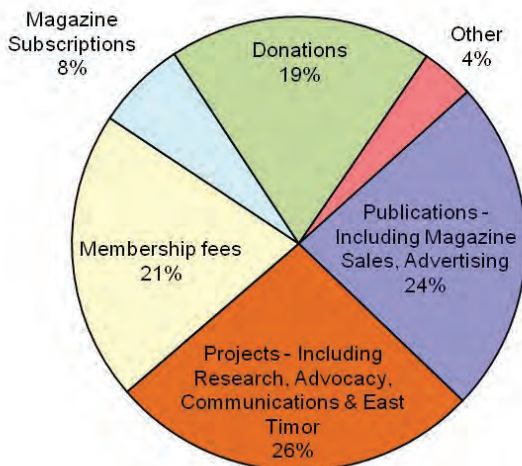


Finally, I would like to acknowledge the great work done by our staff and management, and the generosity of our donors and members. In particular, I would like to recognise the team effort in picking up two awards at the United Nations Association of Australia's 2017 Climate Action Awards.

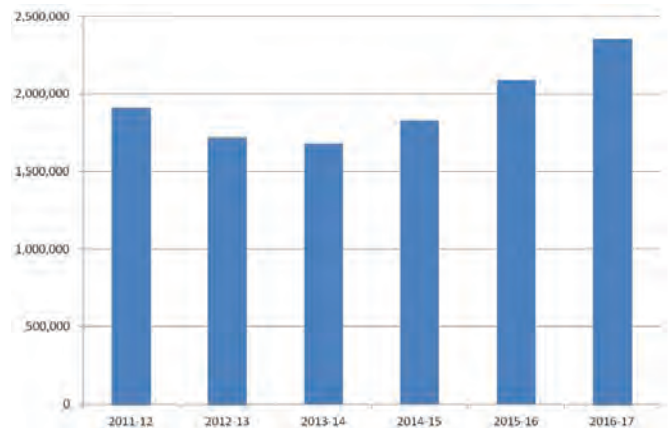
Just a reminder to members that donations to the ATA are fully tax-deductible and are a most welcome addition to the ongoing support of the organisation.

John Bailey
ATA Treasurer

Sources of Income



Operating Revenue Growth



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND OTHER
 COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Revenue			
Membership & subscription fees		637,315	602,196
Project management		624,009	559,257
Publications		560,842	477,070
Donations and grants		442,169	338,227
Sale of goods		44,924	54,923
Interest income		20,036	23,909
Other revenue		24,434	33,996
Total revenue		2,353,729	2,089,578
Expenses			
Employee benefit expense		(1,372,618)	(1,158,698)
Printing and publishing expenses		(204,572)	(197,274)
Project materials		(160,281)	(118,202)
Consultants and professional fees		(145,640)	(206,802)
Postage and freight		(127,604)	(117,045)
Marketing expenses		(96,260)	(65,491)
Travel expenses		(41,483)	(40,039)
Occupancy expenses		(37,910)	(30,475)
Cost of sales		(34,798)	(45,204)
Depreciation and amortisation		(13,892)	(6,173)
Other expenses		(115,559)	(116,239)
Total expenses		(2,350,617)	(2,101,642)
Surplus for the year		3,112	(12,064)
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		3,112	(12,064)

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN: 57 533 056 318

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

2017

	Settled Sum \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	10	307,884	307,894
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	3,112	3,112
Balance at 30 June 2017	10	310,996	311,006

2016

	Settled Sum \$	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	10	319,948	319,958
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	(12,064)	(12,064)
Balance at 30 June 2016	10	307,884	307,894

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	852,765	837,899
Trade and other receivables	3	165,435	194,001
Inventories	4	46,195	152,679
Other assets	5	19,409	14,880
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,083,804</u>	1,199,459
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	55,623	44,012
Intangible assets	7	21,132	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>76,755</u>	44,012
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>1,160,559</u></u>	<u>1,243,471</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	159,196	142,503
Short-term provisions	9	204,035	160,748
Other liabilities	10	469,693	620,185
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>832,924</u>	923,436
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long-term provisions	9	16,629	12,141
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>16,629</u>	12,141
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>849,553</u>	935,577
NET ASSETS		<u><u>311,006</u></u>	<u>307,894</u>
EQUITY			
Settled sum		10	10
Retained surplus		310,996	307,884
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>311,006</u></u>	<u>307,894</u>

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC
ABN: 57 533 056 318

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from members, customers and donors	2,373,662	2,304,646
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,330,104)	(2,388,805)
Interest received	18,160	29,898
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14 <u>61,718</u>	<u>(54,261)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Payment for plant and equipment	(22,702)	(24,723)
Payment for intangible assets	(24,150)	-
Net cash used by investing activities	<u>(46,852)</u>	<u>(24,723)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
(Repayments of) / proceeds from borrowings	-	(2,130)
Net cash used by financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,130)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	14,866	(81,114)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	837,899	919,013
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	2 <u>852,765</u>	<u>837,899</u>



028 THANK YOU

The ATA would not have its impact without our network of supporters and partners who are all part of our community of change.

The ATA would like to thank everyone who has enabled us to engage and advocate for a sustainable future throughout the year including:

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

- Bank Australia
- Energy Consumers Australia
- Google
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund
- Mullum Mullum Trust
- Minter Ellison

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- Benalla Rural City Council
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- Blacktown City Council
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- Consumer Policy Research Centre
- CSIRO
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- Department of Industry (NSW)
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- Department of Renewable Energy, Timor-Leste
- Embark
- Energy4Impact
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- Energy for the People
- Energy Tailors
- Energy Users Association Australia
- Engineers Without Borders - Australia & Timor-Leste
- Environment Victoria
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- Frankston City Council
- Friends of Aileu
- Friends of Baucau
- Friends of Lacluta
- Friends of Suai/Covalima
- Friends of the Earth
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- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Green Energy Options
- Hawkesbury Earth Care Centre
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- Inner West Council
- Institute of Sustainable Futures
- Interface Australia
- Jemena
- K & H Johnston Family Foundation
- Kangaroo Valley Remexio Partnership
- Kovess International
- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
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- Marrickville Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Melbourne Energy Institute
- Moreland Energy Foundation
- Mirboo North Community Energy
- Monanerga Consulting Services
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Natiles NGO, Timor-Leste
- Nillumbik Shire Council
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- RMIT University
- Roman Luan, NGO, Timor-Leste
- Rotary - Melbourne & Timor Leste
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- Solar Dwellings



- Sole Purpose Moulding
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- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Southern Sydney Region of Councils
- Susanna Rosi Photography
- Sustainability Victoria
- Sustainable Buildings Research Centre
- Sustainable Living Festival
- Swinburne University
- The Mathews Family
- The People's Solar
- Timor Adventures
- Total Environment Centre
- United Energy
- University of NSW
- University of Tasmania
- The Valley Centre
- Victorian Council of Social Service
- Warrnambool Environmental Action Group
- Waverley Council
- Willoughby City Council
- Woollahra Municipal Council
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra City Council
- Yarra Energy Foundation

VOLUNTEERS

A large number of people donate their time to the ATA and add to its success

and strengths. The following people have been instrumental in the past year:

- Stephen Whately, long-standing proof reader, who runs his excellent eye over each issue of *ReNew* and *Sanctuary* magazine.
- Alan Pears for his ongoing support and continuing contribution of the Pears Report in *ReNew*.
- Rick Molloy for his assistance with *ReNew* buyers guides.
- John Heywood for his continued support and enthusiasm.
- All the volunteers who helped at the ATA stalls at the many shows the ATA attended throughout the year.
- Dick Clarke, an invaluable expert contributor to *Sanctuary* magazine, and a brains trust for ATA member enquiries.
- Tim Adams for sharing his energy efficiency and building design expertise with ATA members and staff, particularly through *Sanctuary's* Ask Our Experts column.
- All of our Speed Dating experts, who contribute enormously to the success of these events around the country.
- All of the volunteers who helped at houses around Australia for Sustainable House Day in addition to

Clive Parrett, Sarah Cole and Carmel Killin who came in weekly to help us run the event.

- All the volunteers who helped at the ATA stalls at the many shows the ATA attended throughout the year.
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute student interns: Alessandra Chiamonte, Austin Smith, Zachary Hood.
- ATA's successes in Timor-Leste would not be possible without the hard work of ATA members and volunteers. A big thank you to: Michael O'Connell for his long term commitment to the ATA's work in Timor-Leste, particularly his efforts in training and mentoring local partner, CNEFP. Lisa Weber, Ben Purcell, Maja Gajic and David Tolliday for their work on the Village Lighting Scheme training and installations in Lacluta and Remexio. Alan Hutchinson and Mick Harris for their work on the design and materials for the solar and battery installation at the maternity clinic in Maucatar. Sophie Dahm for her weekly commitment to volunteering in the office.

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Alternative Technology Association

The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is a not-for-profit organisation that has been promoting the use of renewable energy, water conservation and sustainable building since 1980. The ATA has thousands of members across Australia who are actively walking the talk in their own homes.

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