

renew.



**2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT**

Renew acknowledges the Traditional Owners throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our deepest respects to Elders past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.



Contents

renew.

Front Cover: Celilo Springs by Andrew Boyne and Western Architecture Studio, a featured house as part of Sustainable House Day 2023, image by Peter Bennetts.

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About Renew

Renew is a national, not-for-profit organisation working to transform Australian homes for climate and energy resilience.

We do this across four key areas:

- 1. Education:** Renew provides education to households, energy consumers and communities through our events, programs, and publications;
- 2. Resources:** Renew publishes expert, independent information and resources;
- 3. Research:** Renew undertakes research that provides foundations for policy;
- 4. Policy:** Renew provides an expert voice for informed policy making, and advocates for a fair energy transition.

Renew is trusted, independent and agile. With over 40 years of experience and thousands of members across Australia, Renew plays a unique role that bridges the gap between community, government, and industry.

OUR TEAM THROUGHOUT 2022-2023

STAFF

Allison Fogarty
Anna Cumming
Carrie-Anne Winder
Chris Sedgman
David Watton
Dean Lombard
Elizabeth Lee
Fiona Gray
Gabriela Fannia
Ian Robertson
Jacqui Hagen
James King

Jessica Dorney
John Knox
Kate Doyle
Kieran Harris
Lance Turner
Linda Cowan
Lori Dalton
Mohit Gulati
Nathan Scolaro
Rachel Goldlust
Rafael Demarchi
Robert McLeod
Samuel Cope
Tim Baxter

BOARD

Dick Clarke
Alicia Webb
Graham Hunt
Mick Harris
Pula Herath
Justin Harding
Srini Nori
Jen Djula
Jenita Enevoldsen
Clint Hare
Shaila Divakarla

OUR VISION

A world in which communities thrive in a way that does not cost the earth.

OUR MISSION

To inspire, enable and advocate for people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.

OUR GOALS

United with our members and partners, by 2025 sustainable living in Australia will be:

- A common expectation for Australian households;
- Affordable and accessible
- Supported and promoted by all levels of government;
- Occurring at a scale where it is self-sustaining.

OUR GOVERNANCE

Renew Australia is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. We are also endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) on the Register of Environmental Organisations and as a Tax Concession Charity (TCC). Renew Australia is an Incorporated Association under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

ABN 57 533 056 318
Reg No. A0017411T

Executive Director's Report

I would like to commence by thanking our outgoing CEO, Dr Fiona Gray, for her contributions to Renew and for the improvements she made to the organisation. Fiona was a judge at the Biophilic Design Awards, presented at the opening plenary sessions for the All Energy Summit, forged new industry relationships and instigated Renew in becoming a ASBEC member as well as garnering individual philanthropic donations.

Throughout this period Renew celebrated the advocacy work that was done over several years, and with the collaboration of other organisations, the National Construction Code energy standard was increased from 6 to 7 stars.

Renew also partnered with Energy Consumers Australia SEC Newgate to deliver a report on the research conducted on consumer attitudes towards energy efficiency housing.

In early 2023 Renew published *Lighting Up Timor*, a collection of reflections on all the work that that was done in collaboration with others over the years, installing solar projects in Timor-Leste.

New staff were appointed in the 2022/2023 year, including

Nathan Scolaro as the Managing Editor for *Renew* magazine, Liz Lee, as the Administrative Support Officer, Rachel Goldlust as our Sustainability Researcher, Rafael Demarchi as Renew's Fundraising Manager, and I commenced in the last quarter of the financial year as the Director of Operations and Finance.

These new appointments allowed Renew to broaden the reach to new readers/subscribers, update the IT system, free up the CEO to concentrate on higher level strategic policies, broaden our scope for research and policy, focus on obtaining funds for critical projects and advocacy and tighten financial and operational processes.

Renew and *Sanctuary* continued to provide interesting and exciting articles in both magazines with updated information about all the innovative methods to build sustainably and the new sustainable technologies that come onto the markets.

Sustainable House Day was made bigger than ever with an expanded events calendar that spanned 6 months, with the main program occurring throughout March 2023. The series covered Concept & Design, Building Materials, Sustainable

Heating & Cooling & Technology for Sustainability as well as additional series on Sustainable Renting, Retrofitting for Resilience, and Sustainable Design 101.

Our Policy and Advocacy team continues to use the Green Rebuild Toolkit to assist people who are rebuilding after bushfire, and our work on providing information to increase the resilience for homes continues.

Additionally, the Getting Off Gas Toolkit was developed throughout this period, providing an important resource for Australian households making critical steps towards electrification.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the support that I have received from the board during this time as well as thanking all the staff who's passion for Renew continues to build on the work done over the past 43 years.

Chris Sedgman
Executive Director



Board President's Report

It is hard to enunciate the love and passion I have for this organisation, this unique and critical actor in the scramble to a sustainable future, this collection of amazing people, that we call Renew.

Like an octopus with intelligent arms going in many different directions, Renew operates across fields and disciplines like no other organisation. And like a smart octopus, we have navigated our way through some difficult mazes, and are still feeling out opportunities and managing risks.

Renew has a strategic role to play in shaping policies and community attitudes and capacity. International processes to achieve effective climate targets are manifestly inadequate, and Renew has been advocating for an agreed carbon budget, and a more mature approach to domestic and Scope 3 emissions. Exceeding the hitherto inadequate moves by the federal and various state governments towards net zero is supported and can be facilitated by Renew.

Policies need input from people who understand how they can be best implemented – Renew has this expertise. Communities need education and assistance in making the transition from fossil fuel dependency to renewable energy, closed loop consumer choices, and regenerative practice – Renew has expertise and 43 years' experience in doing just that at the grass roots community level. Likewise with the resilience shortfall, the realisation by governments at all levels that Australian communities and utilities are ill prepared for the changing climate and natural disasters, is one where Renew has made great contributions, and will continue to do so.

Our ability to help with high level strategy all the way down to local community interactions can be seen in a synopsis the fields our 'octopus' gets its wonderful tentacles into (full details available in the various section reports)...

Policy and advocacy

Renew was the sheepdog who over a four year period rounded up 105 organisations to overcome some resistant 'loudest voices in the room' and successfully lobbying for the adoption of the National Construction Code's 7 Star thermal performance provisions in the NCC 2022.

That fight is not quite over though, as some states have pulled back from immediate implementation. Our Policy and Advocacy Manager, the widely respected Rob McLeod, led that movement supported by staff and the Board, using our network to inspire the other organisations to say 'this has been delayed for too long, act now.'

Our attention continues to be focussed on net-zero in its various realms, and of course the Getting Off Gas Toolkit.

We joined ASBEC (Australian Built Environment Council) and between our erstwhile CEO Dr Fiona Gray, our own Rob McLeod, and myself Dick Clarke, we continue to actively participate in its important work with industry and governments. Rob McLeod is Chair of the ASBEC Improving Our Existing Building Stock Task Group.

Publishing

Our two flagship journals *Renew Magazine* and *Sanctuary Magazine*, sometimes called the best nerdy and trendy mags on earth, cover the entirety of our sustainability endeavours. *Renew* covers the tech and the products and the 'who's doing what' and 'who tried what' in many different sectors, every issue jam packed with rich content. *Sanctuary* is pure distilled sustainable chic in residential housing, unsurpassed for richness of content and quality.

Across the world print media is struggling, and we are too – in spite of doing better than many other titles. But the challenges of the digital age have to be met, and with our

two wonderful editors the innovative Nathan Scolaro (*Renew*) and the national treasure Anna Cumming (*Sanctuary*), our strategy is continually being adjusted to do that without sacrificing the high standards that we are known for.

Projects

Renew's biggest and boldest at the moment is the Getting Off Gas Toolkit, which is becoming increasingly well known and used. Getting off gas is a critical strategy for achieving net-zero, and it is heartening to have this message aligned with several other key organisations in the sustainability field, such as the Australian Conservation Foundation and Climate Council, and others.

Beyond BAL is part of our ongoing work to support communities rebuilding after bushfire, it contains resources as part of the Green Rebuild Toolkit. It expands the understanding of best-practice in the area of bushfire resilient design, beyond the complicated and variable BAL Rating system. Architects and building designers across the country submitted buildings that exemplify resilient design elements and building practices that were then analysed and a shortlist created. In the next financial year this will feature in a series of free online events, as well as make up a body of case studies to be published.

Events

In late 2022 Renew hosted a series of webinars on sustainable and resilient buildings, starting with Sustainable Design 101, followed by Retrofitting for Resilience, and then ventured into the difficult arena of supporting renters with Sustainable Renters' Week.

Once again we hosted a revitalised Sustainable House Day, with a program more extensive than ever, with annual calendar of events offering more opportunities for peer-to-peer education sharing and access to expert advice, to a broader range of people.

The main event had near 130 houses and house profiles, and took place on March 19, 2023, with many facets: community partner events around the country, online house tours, and a series of free online sessions featuring experts and homeowners. The expanded program had four themed weeks of Extension Session events, diving deeper into topics touched on during SHD - interactive sessions with experts responding to specific audience questions.

SHD is possibly Renew's highest profile event, and it is worth reporting on some figures to give members and others a snapshot of just how amazing this series of events is:

- 129 featured homes
- 28 Sustainable House Day events facilitated by Renew
- 25 Community Partner events both in-person and online
- 7,542 online event attendees
- 31,000+ house tour video views
- 7,090 event registrations
- 345 Extension Session passes sold
- 1,035 Individual tickets to Extension Sessions sold
- 9 Sponsors
- 5 Council Partners
- 27 Community Partners

Members and Branch Activities

Renew engages with more than 250,000 people around Australia and beyond, much of it facilitated by volunteer members from Branches all around the country. These members are the lifeblood of the organisation: committed and passionate individuals who offer their expertise, time and energy. Branch volunteers run events, represent Renew at expos, conferences and more.

The Board would like to offer special thanks to all the Branch Convenors all over the country for their fantastic work.

In July 2022, the Board adopted a new membership and pricing structure, establishing membership categories to

continue engaging members and volunteers, as well as continuing subscription options to Renew and Sanctuary. In future we will report memberships and subscriptions separately.

Over the FY22-23 period, our memberships had positive growth, with 231 more memberships held than at the beginning of the period. This is a good result, considering the economic conditions over this period, and clearly shows the loyalty of Renew members and subscribers.

Major supporters and fundraising

Like most not-for-profit organisations, we rely on donations for part of our financial viability, since many of our octopus arms cannot be monetised – one example being our advocacy for the NCC 7 Star upgrade. We are very grateful to the supporters who gave so generously to complement our relatively humble commercial side.

Earlier in the year we elevated our fundraising processes with the appointment of a professional with great experience in the field. Rafael Demarchi was appointed to the role, and his approach follows a partnership model, with well-planned strategic links to individuals and organisations who share our goals, and with whom we can work to achieve them. In less than a year this has brought over \$110,000 into the budget enabling us to achieve our mission as planned.

Staff and CEO changes

We sadly said goodbye to our CEO Dr Fiona Gray in May. For her own reasons to do with family and work balance Fiona felt she could not continue in that role, though she has remained a friend of Renew and me personally, and has been available for important advice on several occasions since. We thank her deeply for the contribution she made in a relatively short time.

Her sense of selflessness is evident in that she structured herself out of a job, albeit temporarily - setting things up so

that for a time we could manage without a CEO, with Ms Chris Sedgman stepping up to Executive Director, until we recruit a replacement. This also meant that we made a substantial saving in our monthly salary expenses, and while only a short term scenario, it further eased pressure on finances.

We have been actively recruiting for a CEO and will commence interviewing shortly.

I would like to thank all of our wonderful staff for their sterling efforts, often under pressure. Working for an environmental NFP is too often a thankless task with the extra burden of 'do it for the planet' hanging over us, so I offer a heartfelt Thank You! ...and on behalf of the Board.

The Board - I also am grateful for the truly collaborative relationships that the Board has maintained, with the strain of the late 2021 and early 2022 financial difficulties fresh in our minds. That we have made so much progress in overcoming the obstacles, and look like having an even better 2023-24, in no small part due to the quality of stamina and perseverance shown by my fellow Board members – thank you.

This clever octopus, Renew, is key to solving the puzzles before us as we head for net zero.



Dick Clarke
Board President

KEY WORK

Publications

Our magazines *Renew* and *Sanctuary* continue to provide leading independent information on trends in sustainable technology and design.

In a year that saw exciting progress at a national level on improving energy efficiency standards for Australian homes, *Sanctuary* magazine continued as the country's only dedicated sustainable house design magazine, providing both inspiration and practical advice for achieving beautiful, comfortable and low-impact homes. Through this period *Sanctuary* editor Anna Cumming tackled tricky but increasingly important topics such as flood-resilient design, delved into the principles of universal design for accessible, adaptable, resilient homes, and shone the spotlight on dream building material hempcrete.

Renew is the nation's premier magazine on practical, cost-effective technologies and ideas for an environmentally sustainable home and lifestyle. Nathan Scolaro took on the role of managing editor in November 2022, introducing a more person-centric approach to the overall feel of the magazine — without losing the technical integrity — and a vision is to show the intersection of people with sustainable technologies in their homes and communities. Across the year, *Renew* has covered topics including household electrification, coinciding with the organisation's Getting off Gas toolkit, as well as preparing for heatwaves, plastic recycling, and regenerative agriculture. It has profiled Saul Griffiths, the Good Car Company, Hannah Moloney and Earthworker Collective; and featured buyer's guides on solar for apartments, electrical appliances and affordable EVs.

● Combined readership of over 70,000

● 28,264 social media followers



August 2022

In our milestone 60th issue, we tackled the increasingly important topic of designing for flood resilience, visiting homes from Queensland to Tasmania that incorporate strategies to stay dry or to recover quickly after flooding.



November 2022

Sanctuary 61 was our universal design special, in which we explore strategies for greater accessibility that can provide flexibility for a range of life stages and household configurations, as well as visiting a collection of sustainable homes that do it well.



March 2023

Sanctuary 62 was our Sustainable House Day special, showcasing some of our favourites from this year's collection of green homes around Australia.



May 2023

Sanctuary 63 was our hemp building special, exploring the latest developments in the industry, along with profiles of a collection of beautiful hemp homes and some shorter case studies covering different construction techniques.



July 2022

In *Renew* 160, we revisited our popular inverter buyers guide, where take a look at the latest inverters, which inverters are used where, their features and capabilities.



October 2022

In *Renew* 161 we explored two examples of simple retrofits for older homes that can make them much more livable and reduce energy bills, without spending a fortune.



January 2023

Renew 163 featured an in-depth interview with engineer, inventor and renewable energy advocate, Saul Griffith, who is showing us what we need to do to switch to a fully electric economy.



April 2023

In *Renew* 168, we get to know partners in life and work, Hannah Moloney from Gardening Australia and Anton Vikstrom, one of the co-founders of the Good Car Company, which is making affordable electric vehicles available across Australia.

Policy and Advocacy

Renew's Policy and Advisory team undertakes research and policy analysis on behalf of consumers in the energy, water and transport markets. The team also offers project consulting services to a large range of commercial, government and community clients on the economic, technical, regulatory and operational aspects of efficient and environmentally effective technology and consumer behaviour.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE CAMPAIGN WIN

After years of campaigning, Renew celebrated a win during the 2022-23 financial year, with news of the decision that all new Australian homes will need to meet 7-Star energy standards. This marks the first increase to standards in over a decade and will reduce cost of living pressure and cut emissions.

The decision saw state, territory and Commonwealth governments agree to improve residential energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code for the first time in over a decade. The changes will lift minimum NatHERS ratings from 6 to 7 Stars and set a new budget for solar and efficient appliances.

The uplift in energy standards is estimated to result in a cut of emissions by up to 78 million tonnes by 2050 and will reduce deaths during extremely cold or hot weather. It is also expected to lower the cost of grid upgrades by up to \$12.6 billion by 2050, and reduce poverty and inequality by ensuring higher standards in social housing and private rentals.

This result comes after a major community campaign led by Renew, in which 105 organisations across the consumer, energy, health, climate, community and property sectors called on governments to lift standards. The outcome is the result of a 4-year collaborative process led by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) and is based on the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, agreed in early 2019 by State, Territory and Commonwealth Energy Ministers.





CLIMATE RESILIENT HOMES

Attention at a government level turned closely to home energy performance during the 2022-23 financial year, in line with ongoing Renew advocacy priorities. Following a December 2022 agreement between the Federal government and Senate crossbench, the May 2023 Budget included \$1.3 billion in funding for home retrofits, including financing for green loans to households and upgrades to social housing. Renew has engaged with a range of government policy processes through participation in advisory groups and submissions. Renew made a detailed submission supporting the development of a National Energy Performance Strategy, with a focus on households.

HOME ELECTRIFICATION

Alongside Renew's Getting Off Gas Toolkit, we have advocated strongly for policy to ensure that household electrification accelerates and leaves nobody behind.

Renew was a founding member of a new national network of NGOs and other organisations advocating on the issue, the Efficient Electrification network. Renew has also contributed as a member to other networks such as the Healthy and Affordable Homes coalition, the One Million Homes alliance, Power Together, and Gas Free Victoria. Renew has made submissions to a range of government processes on electrification and our commentary has appeared in a wide range of local and national media.

AUSTRALIAN SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

In the 2022-23 Financial year Renew was pleased to join the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council as a full member, building on years of informal collaboration. Renew has accepted the role of chairing the ASBEC task group on improving the energy performance of Australia's existing building stock, bringing together over 20 members with a

focus on policy and advocacy towards upgrading and retrofitting existing homes and commercial buildings. Renew has worked closely with a range of ASBEC member organisations and participated in regular ASBEC council meetings.

HEALTHY HOMES FOR RENTERS

Renew continues to advocate strongly for a policy response to the poor energy performance of Australia's rental homes. In 2022-23 we continued to participate as a member of the executive committee of the national Healthy Homes for Renters campaign, formally representing Victoria in the campaign while engaging across other jurisdictions. The campaign is coordinated by Better Renting and is pushing for minimum standards for rental homes that include energy efficiency. Renew engaged with policy processes and decisions on the issue, including with engagement and submissions to governments in South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, NSW, ACT, and the Commonwealth.

KEY WORK

Projects

Renew undertakes projects that leverage our expertise and experience to best deliver our core mission.

GETTING OFF GAS TOOLKIT

Through the 2022-23 period Renew developed a Getting Off Gas Toolkit providing clear, accessible and practical advice to households on replacing gas with renewables. In June 2023 Renew launched the Toolkit via a website and a series of events, that received thousands of bookings.

Resources provided to households through the Toolkit include independent information on appliances, practical guides to getting off gas, background information on why getting off gas matters, fact sheets, and a range of links and contacts.

Alongside households, the resources in the Toolkit have been deployed to support and build the capacity of a range of community groups and advocates. Training, events, webinars, information and resources from the project are to be delivered through partnerships with local councils and other organisations as a core priority for the project.

At the conclusion of this financial year, a series of events have been planned and will take place early in the 23/24 period. These free online events will help households to use the Getting Off Gas Toolkit.

The project has received funding from Boundless Earth and Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation.



The Renew community in Melbourne celebrates the Getting Off Gas Toolkit

GREEN REBUILD TOOLKIT

The Green Rebuild Toolkit project was developed in response to the 2019-20 bushfire season, in which over 3,500 homes were lost around the country and many more structures destroyed. The reason for this project was two-fold: to help people navigate bushfire ratings to rebuild, and assist them to do so in a way that is sustainable, affordable and resilient to future climate disasters.

Beyond BAL

Throughout this financial year, Renew continued developing resources as part of the Green Rebuild Toolkit. The Beyond BAL research project was started with expert Nigel Bell and Dr Douglas Brown, and aimed to expand the understanding of best-practice in the area of bushfire resilient design, beyond the complicated and variable BAL Rating system.

VALE DR DOUGLAS BROWN

Douglas had been working with Renew on the Beyond BAL research project as part of our Green Rebuild Toolkit, helping people make their homes more resilient to bushfire. Douglas was an expert in bushfire-resilient design, and was awarded a PhD entitled 'Domestic Architecture and the Perception of Risk in Bushfire-Prone Areas' from the University of Sydney. In 2016 he set up a research consultancy which provided design advice to building professionals with clients in bushfire-prone areas, and he spoke regularly at bushfire conferences around Australia. Douglas brought deep expertise to our work, and we miss his cheerful Zoom calls. We extend our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

This research project involved reaching out to architects, designers and building designers across the country and asking for home submissions that exemplify resilient design elements and building practices. These were then analysed by experts and a shortlist was created. In the next financial year this shortlist will feature in a series of free online events, as well as make up a body of case studies.

Retrofitting for Resilience

The Green Rebuild Toolkit project also included a number of free online events, that focused on retrofitting existing homes rather than rebuilding after fire. There is more information about these in the Events section of this report.

CONSUMER ATTITUDES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Renew partnered with Energy Consumers Australia and SEC Newgate to develop a major research project on how consumers think about energy efficiency in their homes. The project included qualitative focus groups around the country with participants from a range of backgrounds including renters, homeowners, home buyers, and financially vulnerable participants. It also included a rigorous quantitative survey. Among a rich and detailed set of findings, the project found strong support for policies to improve the energy efficiency of homes and reduce cost of living. The research report was launched in Canberra by Senator Jenny McAllister, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS ON ENERGY COSTS

The 2022-23 financial year saw Australia facing spiking energy prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The

Federal Budget forecast consumer tariff price rises of over 50% for electricity and over 40% for gas. The impacts of rising cost of living pressures have been central to policy considerations for Australia's energy systems, including December 2022 legislation to introduce wholesale price caps.

Renew conducted original and groundbreaking research on how household energy choices influence energy bills in the context of rising prices. Renew's analysis, Limiting energy bills by getting off gas: all-electric homes and the 2022 energy crisis, found that while rising tariffs impact all households, homes that are energy efficient, all-electric, and powered by renewables faced the smallest increases to energy bills. The research was the first to address this question in Australia, influenced public policy discussion, and has been a basis for further Renew reports, submissions and public commentary across the year. The project was funded by Boundless Earth.

Renew furthermore conducted an analysis of how rising energy prices and energy efficiency would affect the bills of South Australian renters on behalf of South Australian Council of Social Service. The analysis has featured in advocacy for minimum rental standards in South Australia.

DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES ENABLEMENT

In December 2022 Renew published findings of a report conducted in partnership with Energeia and funded by Energy Consumers Australia to identify the policy, regulatory, market, and technical barriers to maximising consumer benefit by enabling higher levels of Consumer Energy Resources (CER) integration into the energy system. The report found that scenarios of high deployment of CER can lead to significant benefits for consumers into the future.

RENEW'S SUSTAINABLE EXPERT SERIES

During this financial year Renew refined its offering to local councils across Australia by developing the Sustainable Expert Series, a package of online events on a range of sustainability topics, ranging from building materials to electric vehicles. By partnering with councils to deliver these online events locally, Renew deepened its influence in communities across the country.

LIGHTING UP TIMOR-LESTE: REFLECTIONS ON RENEW'S SOLAR PROGRAM IN TIMOR-LESTE 2003-2022

In January 2023 Renew published a collection of reflections on the longterm solar program in Timor-Leste.

Editors: Harry Andrews and Robyn Deed

Editorial and production assistance: Lisa Major (Subgreen Design), Emily Braham, Lance Turner, Stephen Whately.

"After the referendum in 1999 and subsequent withdrawal of Indonesia from Timor-Leste, Mick Harris went to Dili to see what the situation was like and whether there was any way he and other like-minded people could help. Mick, like many others in Australia, was very unhappy with the way Timor had been abandoned when Indonesia annexed Timor-Leste after Portugal granted them independence.

Along with Mick, many of us who were involved in Renew at the time wanted to do something to help and we realised that we had some valuable technical skills that could be made available to the friendship groups that were active in the country. We organised ourselves into



what would become the International Projects Group (IPG), run as a branch of Renew, and started working with the friendship groups to provide solar PV design and installation services in Timor-Leste.

My time in IPG – from the early days providing design and logistical support in Melbourne, through to my early trips to Timor-Leste, to training development and delivery at Timorese institutions, to the longer trips staying in local communities, to back in Australia speaking at events in support of the Timorese people – has been one of the most rewarding things I have

done in my life. The deep sense of personal satisfaction, the adventure, the friendships, being part of something larger than myself, the feeling of making a real difference, the challenge of overcoming obstacles, challenging myself and my preconceptions – all these have made me truly thankful that I was able to play a small part in the rebuilding of Timor-Leste."

— An excerpt from the Preface of *Lighting Up Timor* by Michael O'Connell. The full publication can be viewed at the digital library of Renew Membership Portal: renewportal.org.au.

Events

OCTOBER 2022: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN 101

This event series provided a starting point for people just learning about sustainable design. Panellists varied from homeowners, designers, building scientists, architects and energy analysts from across the country.

Sustainable Design 101: Where to start

In this online session we covered the principles of sustainable design, explained why people should consider it, and outlined how to get started.

Date: 4 October 2022
Featuring: Jenny Edwards, Jane Hilliard, and Nigel Bell
Host: Renew's Anna Cumming.
Bookings: 316

Sustainable Design 101: What is low energy design?

In this online session we went back to the basics of low energy design: what is it, and why is it so important?

Date: 11 October 2022
Featuring: Simone Schenkel, Dick Clarke, and Sarah Lebner.
Host: Anna Cumming.
Bookings: 292

Sustainable Design 101: The basics of building materials

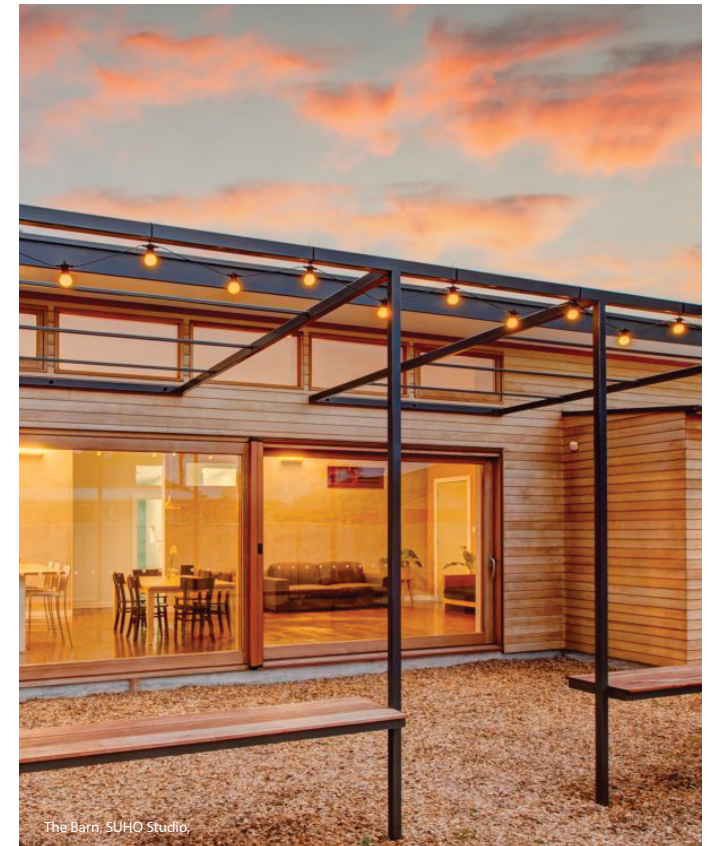
In this online session we explored the benefits of using sustainable building materials, and outlined some key choices to make.

Date: 18 October 2022
Featuring: Elizabeth Wheeler, Jane Caught, David Rochford, and Grady Peterson
Host: Anna Cumming.
Bookings: 415

Sustainable Design 101: Energy systems and efficient design

In this online session we covered the basics of solar, batteries and heat pumps, as well as exploring the best energy efficient appliances to consider.

Featuring Dean Lombard, Richard Keech, Dr Sarah Fiess
Host: Anna Cumming.
Bookings: 661



NOVEMBER 2022: RETROFITTING FOR RESILIENCE

As part of our Green Rebuild Toolkit project, this event series focused on retrofitting existing homes to be more resilient in the face of bushfire. It featured fire experts, architects, builders, designers, and homeowners who have first hand experience.



Retrofitting for Resilience: Getting started

In this introductory session, we got back to the basics of what considerations must be made when approaching a bushfire-ready retrofit.

Date: 9 November 2022
Featuring: Jeff Dau, Mark Davis, and Kate Cotter
Host: Renew's Dr Fiona Gray
Bookings: 188

Retrofitting for Resilience: Protection from embers and radiant heat

In this session we covered the most important aspects of bushfire resilience in homes — embers and radiant heat.

Date: 16 November 2022
Featuring: Julie de Jong, Ian Weir and Eldon Bottcher.
Host: Renew's Dr Fiona Gray
Bookings: 208

Retrofitting for Resilience: Water and Landscaping

This session was all about how landscaping, water set-ups and garden selection can increase your home's resistance to bushfire.

Date: 23 November 2022
Featuring: Lesley Corbett, Susan Bell, Nigel Bell
Host: Renew's Dr Fiona Gray
Bookings: 240

Retrofitting for Resilience: Energy Setups

In this session we explored how to plan for a home energy setup that is reliable and safe in the event of a bushfire.

Date: 23 November 2022
Featuring: Justin Leonard, Tricia Hiley, Alan Pears
Host: Renew's Dr Fiona Gray
Bookings: 214

Image: John Hermans

DECEMBER 2022: SUSTAINABLE RENTERS' WEEK

This event series explored ways to live more sustainably in rental properties, by making easy modifications to improve comfort and energy efficiency. It also covered rebates for more permanent improvements.

Sustainable Renters' Week: Getting your landlord on board

In this session we discussed how you can get your rental provider onboard with updating the efficiency and comfort of your home.

Date: 5 December 2022
Featuring: Michaela Lang, Bernie Barrett,
Bookings: 89

Sustainable Renters' Week: Tips for making your rental more comfortable and affordable

From draught proofing and heating & cooling to home energy assessment kits, this panel discussion explained how you can improve the liveability of your home while bringing your energy costs down.

Date: 6 December 2022
Featuring: Rob Murray-Leach, Lisa Rime, Rowan Jamieson
Bookings: 119

Sustainable Renters' Week: Small Space Gardening

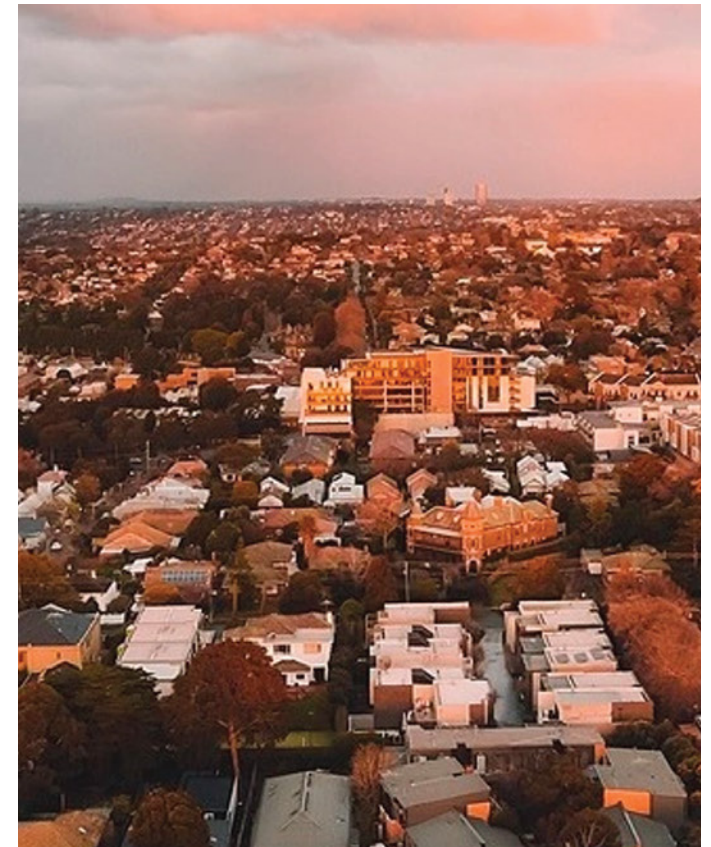
This panel discussion shared advice and ideas on how to maximise small space gardening in your rental property.

Date: 7 December 2022
Featuring: Jessica Perini, 'Nanna' Anna, Gregory Lorenzutti
Bookings: 119

Sustainable Renters' Week: Improving the rentability and sustainability of your property

In this session we learned more about upgrading the appliances, efficiency and comfort of your tenanted home and solar for renters.

Date: 8 December 2022
Featuring: Stan Krpan, Dick Clarke
Bookings: 88



SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY

Established in 2001, Sustainable House Day is a national event hosted by Renew that facilitates peer-to-peer knowledge sharing on sustainable building, design and living by providing access to Australia's most inspiring sustainable homes.

The event highlight was our flagship Sustainable House Day, which took place on March 19 2023. The main event had many facets: community partner events around the country, online house tours, and a series of free online sessions featuring experts and homeowners.

Almost 130 house profiles were featured on the Sustainable House Day website, including videos that provided a look into homeowners' journeys. Those browsing house profiles were given the opportunity to interact directly with the homeowner, architect, or builder, offering the peer-to-peer education sharing that is so important to the Sustainable House Day community.

The program continued with four themed weeks of Extension Session events, providing a deeper dive into topics touched on during Sustainable House Day. These interactive sessions featured experts from around the country and provided attendees with an abundance of opportunities for questions.

All our 28 Sustainable House Day events and 28 Community Partner Events this year were well attended with engaged and enthusiastic audiences. Several Community Partner events sold out, including the house tours held by the Toowoomba and Gold Coast Members' Branch, and others were very well attended, with thousands of eventgoers in almost all states and territories.

Renew recognises the strong demand for Sustainable House Day's online offering to be combined with in person house tours and events. In 2024 we look forward to providing a combination of both, with a strong emphasis on encouraging homeowners to open their homes to the public.

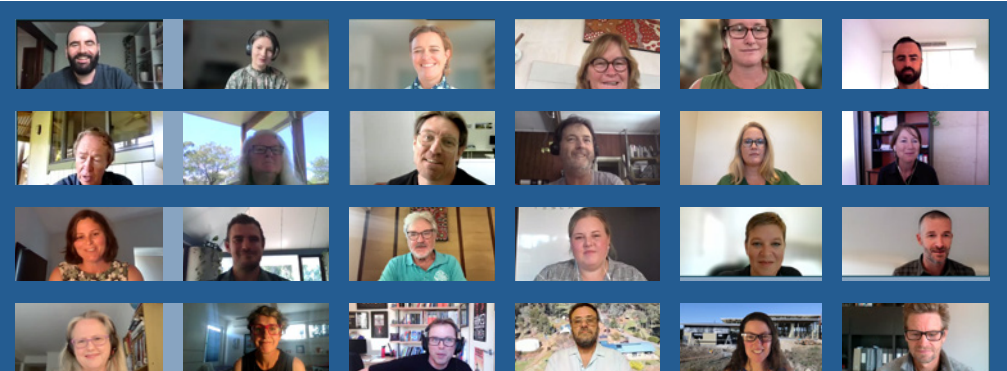
"This has been a great session, thanks so much, presenters are excellent, I am now really inspired to get on with it and get solar to go with our all electric home!" - Bill

"Thank you for a fantastic session. The presenters deft control of the flow, along with exceptionally knowledgeable and engaging speakers, made this session really valuable for me. Really opened my eyes to possible pitfalls and solutions" - Lorraine.

"Amazing. Thank you so much. This has answered so many questions for me" - Denise

KEY NUMBERS

- 129 featured homes
- 28 Sustainable House Day events facilitated by Renew
- 25 Community Partner events both in-person and online
- 7,542 online event attendees
- 31,000+ house tour video views
- 7,090 event registrations
- 345 Extension Session passes sold
- 9 Sponsors
- 5 Council Partners
- 27 Community Partners



Some of our experts as part of Sustainable House Day 2023.

Membership

Renew has a member and subscriber base of over 7,000. Our Members' Branches are the backbone of this community, made up of committed and passionate volunteers who offer their expertise, time and energy to facilitate events, participate in research projects, and help drive our mission and goals.

Throughout the 2022-2023 period Renew branches have been mobilising volunteers to run amazing and informative events, as well as representing Renew at expos, conferences and more. Renew's Sydney Branch have been very busy,

running a number of events from *Renovating to the Passivhaus Standard* through to *Looking after rainwater tanks and simple greywater systems*. Illawarra Branch's event *Solar panels and batteries – your questions answered* attracted nearly 50 attendees, which is fantastic for a newly-established branch. While many have enjoyed the easing of restrictions, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 have required some Branches to continue organising and engaging via online webinars and meetings. Our Branch support processes have enabled smooth events for these groups, who show fantastic professionalism and organisational skills. We are thankful to our Convenors and committed members for their support over this time.

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, so many Branches have put on fantastic in-person community events and countless stalls. Renew's Melbourne Branch have proven their capacity to inspire, enable and advocate for sustainable living through their four open home tours at a local member's 8-star home, selling over 80 tickets. The Gold Coast Branch ran a range of successful in person events, including their first ever hybrid event, *Energy Storage - time to add*

batteries? The Renew Illawarra Branch put on highly successful and well attended Permaculture Day event in Mount Kembla.

NEW MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

In July 2022, Renew adopted a new membership and pricing structure, establishing membership categories to continue engaging our wonderful members and volunteers, as well as continuing our great subscription options to Renew and Sanctuary. We also increased our prices on these options for the first time in years, to maintain our financial sustainability.

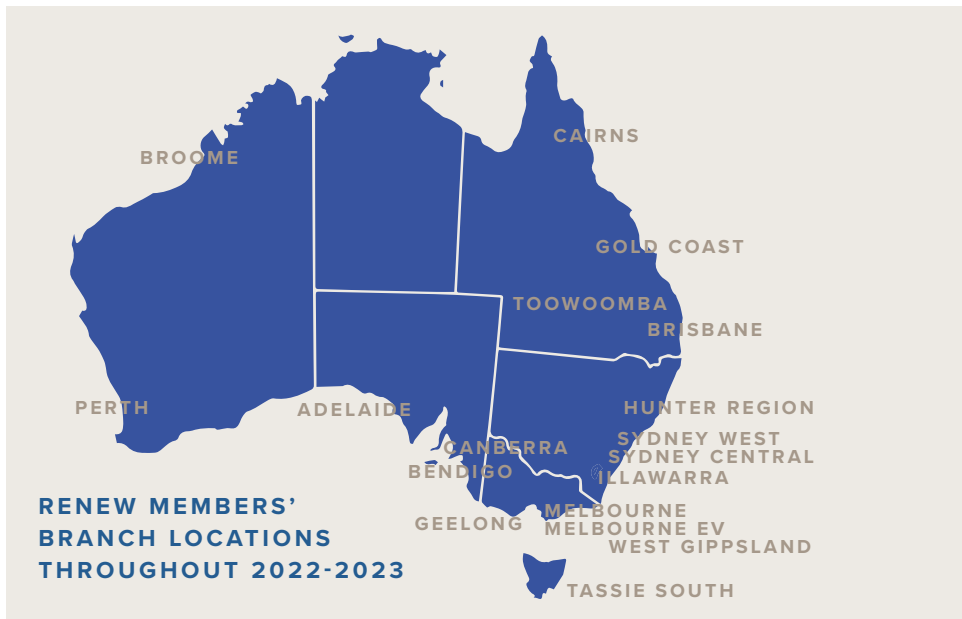
The changes to our structure means that going forward, we will report memberships and subscriptions separately.

Over the FY22-23 period, our overall memberships held had positive growth, with 231 more memberships held than at the beginning of the period.

Renew subscriptions increased over the same period by a smaller amount of 22, resulting in essentially a stable figure for Renew subscriptions.

Sanctuary subscriptions increased over the period by 187, which is positive growth.

These results are pleasing, given the economic conditions over this period, and demonstrates the strong loyalty of Renew's members and subscribers.



● 17 events hosted

● Over 600 individual event attendees

Fundraising

The strategic re-establishment of a dedicated fundraising department within Renew in mid-April marked a significant turning point in our mission to positively impact the community.

The department aims to cultivate better relationships with donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic foundations. It also has a vital role in raising awareness of our need for charitable donations to fund vital projects and the organisation.

In the department's first two and a half months of operation, our End of Financial Year Appeal was strategically planned, developed and launched. Taking a different approach to past initiatives, the results exceeded our expectations. Thanks to our supporters' immense generosity, we secured over \$110,000 in donations.

These funds will have a profound impact on our organisation's ability to fulfil its mission. Renew will be able to continue delivering its programs, reach a wider audience, and make a more substantial difference to our planet and the lives of many Australians we connect with every year. With these initial promising results, we look forward to continued success and growth in the coming financial year.

With that in mind, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and sponsors for their unwavering support throughout this financial year. Your generosity enables us to make a meaningful and lasting impact on our community. Your belief in our vision and mission inspires us every day, and we are deeply thankful for your trust and commitment. Together, we look forward to making a bigger difference in the year ahead.

Renew would not have its impact without our network of donors, supporters and partners who are all part of our community of change. We would like to thank everyone who has helped us to enable, inspire and advocate for a sustainable future throughout the year including:

MAJOR DONORS

Danny Matthews
David Barnes
George Smith
Ian Gust
Jean Le Quesne
John Ward
Karl Williams
Michael Harris
Thomas Peat

And our numerous regular donors and our donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

ORGANISATIONAL DONORS

Boundless Earth
Cannon-Brookes Foundation
Kungullan Investments
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation



Thank you

MEMBERS' BRANCH CONVENORS

Alan Strickland
Anne Watson
Bernie Ingle
Brendan Rennkin
Carrie Wilkinson
Chris Moss
Chris Hooper
Daryl Douglass
Duncan Redden
Ewa Meyer
Graham Hunt
Greg Knight
Jenita Enevoldsen
Jenny Dibley
Judy McLennan
Kerry Watson
Kim Wilkinson
Marisa Pizzica
Mark Tranter
Peter Lyons
Peter Overton
Peter Wonfor
Petrice Koelewyn
Sheryl Backhouse
Trevor Berrill
Zak Nicholson

Our Convenors are supported in running their Branch activities by a host of active Volunteers.

RENEW LIFE MEMBERS

Alan Hutchinson
Alan Pears
Alan Strickland
Chris Moss
Godfrey Davies
Michael Harris
Michael O'Connell
Noel Jeffrey
Paul Fritze
Ryan Szloch

SOLAR IN TIMOR LESTE

Thank you to all our volunteers, partners and supporters who make our work possible including; Atauro Administrative Post
Barry's Place
Baguia sub-District
Administrator
CNEFP Tibar

DPA Solar
Energy Terrain
Envirogroup/Mick Harris
H&K Johnston Family Foundation
John Tilleard
Ho Musan Ida
Latrobe University/Colin Hocking
Pixelasia Productions
Plasmatronics/Alan Hutchinson
Roman Luan
Rotary Club of Adelaide
Rotary Club of Doncaster
Rotary Donations in Kind
Rotary Foundation
Xpand Foundation/Andrew Mahar

SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors who enabled Sustainable House Day to achieve the impact it has in creating a sustainable future.

GOLD SPONSORS

Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action
Your Home, Design for Place and NatHERS

SILVER SPONSORS

Bank Australia
SONNEN

BRONZE SPONSORS

Design Matters National
Hip v. Hype
Light House Architecture and Science

COUNCIL PARTNERS

Banyule City Council
City of Monash
Glen Eira City Council
Merri-Bek City Council
Randwick City Council

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Altereco Designs
Amaroo Environmental Education Centre
Beyond Zero Emissions Byron
BREAZE
Champion Passive House
City of Monash
City of Yarra
Clean Energy Nillumbik.
CORNERBLOCK
Creating Communities
Eclipse Passive House
Ecoliv

Evitat
Glen Eira Council
Gruen Eco Design
HIP V. HYPE
Inner West Council.
Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
Maroondah City Council
Mullum Cares
Narara Ecovillage
PEET
ptmaARCHITECTURE
Renew Perth Branch
Solar Dwellings
SUHO
The Cape
The Cape Owners Corp.
Committee
Urban Ecology
Renew Members Branches
Gold Coast Members' Branch
Perth Members' Branch
Toowoomba Members' Branch

PANELLISTS

Alicia Webb
Amy Frew
Anthony Broese van Groenou
Bernie Barrett
Bobbi McKibbin

Thank you

Bryce Gatton
Christine Kennedy
Clint Hare
Damien Moyses
Daniel Burnett
Darryn Parkinson
David Mahony
David Rochford
Dean Lombard
Sarah Fiess
Dylan Stone
Eldon Bottcher
Elizabeth Wheeler
Finn Peacock
Gareth Graham
Gavin Gilchrist
Grady Peterson
Graham Hunt
Harley Truong
Iain Wiebenga
Ian Weir
James Goodlet
Jane Caught
Jane Hilliard
Jeff Dau
Jenny Edwards
Jo Thierfelder
Jodie Passmore
Josh Ellison
Julie de Jong

Julie Mills
Justin Leonard
Kate Cotter
Kathleen Stewart
Kay Wennegell
Kirstie Wulf
Lesley Corbett
Liam Wallis
Lisa Rime
Louise Gilfedder
Mark Davis
Mary-Anne Jackson
Michaela Lang
Nigel Bell
Paul Dolphin
Ralf Thesing
Richard Keech
Rob Murray-Leach
Robert Goodwill
Rogier Voorhoeve
Rowan Jamieson
Russell Harris
Sarah Lebner
Simone Schenkel
Sophia MacRae
Stan Krpan
Susan Bell
Talina Edwards
Tim Forcey
Tricia Hiley

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Diane Falzon

FUNDRAISING DRIVE SPONSOR

Reclaim Energy

OUR TEAM

Last but not least, Renew thanks the staff and Board who gave so much to the organisation over the 2022-2023 financial year.

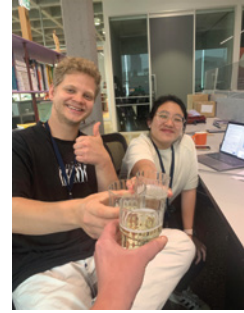
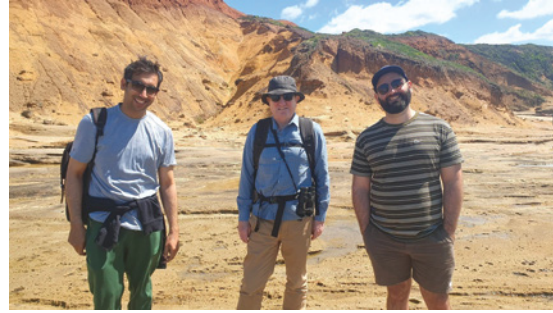
STAFF

Allison Fogarty
Anna Cumming
Carrie-Anne Winder
Chris Sedgman
David Watton
Dean Lombard
Elizabeth Lee
Fiona Gray
Gabriela Fannia
Ian Robertson
Jacqui Hagen
James King

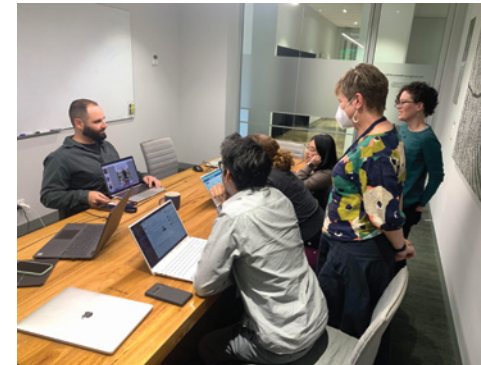
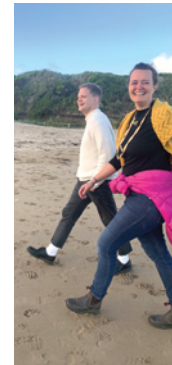
Jessica Dorney
John Knox
Kate Doyle
Kieran Harris
Lance Turner
Linda Cowan
Lori Dalton
Mohit Gulati
Nathan Scolaro
Rachel Goldlust
Rafael Demarchi
Robert McLeod
Samuel Cope
Tim Baxter

BOARD

Dick Clarke
Alicia Webb
Graham Hunt
Mick Harris
Pula Herath
Justin Harding
Srini Nori
Jen Djula
Jenita Enevoldsen
Clint Hare
Shaila Divakarla



Some of the wonderful faces that made up Renew during the 2022-2023 period.



Treasurer's Report

The year 2022/23 has been a year of consolidation for Renew. During that period, we finally felt the wind back of the remaining restrictions which we endured during the Covid years. This allowed Renew to resume operations and activities that had been curtailed for an extended period. During the year we also completed bedding in our new Civi CRM which is an essential tool in our member, subscriber, and donor income streams.

Renew's income for the year was \$1,849,469 which was down from the previous year's income of \$2,059,400. However, an important point needs to be noted. The YE 2022 income included a one-off insurance claim of \$307,911 after Renew's former home the Solar Workshop at CERES was destroyed by fire. Without that income the income for YE2022 would have been \$1,751,489. The YE 23 result of \$1,849,369 represents an improvement on the core operating income from the previous year.

Our expenses for YE 2023 were \$2,002,894 which was down from YE 2022 expenses of \$2,142,319. Unfortunately, the drop in expenses was not enough to offset the drop in income so we did

operate at a deficit of \$153,425. Having said that our Cash and Cash Equivalents improved to \$446,326 for YE 2023 from \$228,044 in YE 2022.

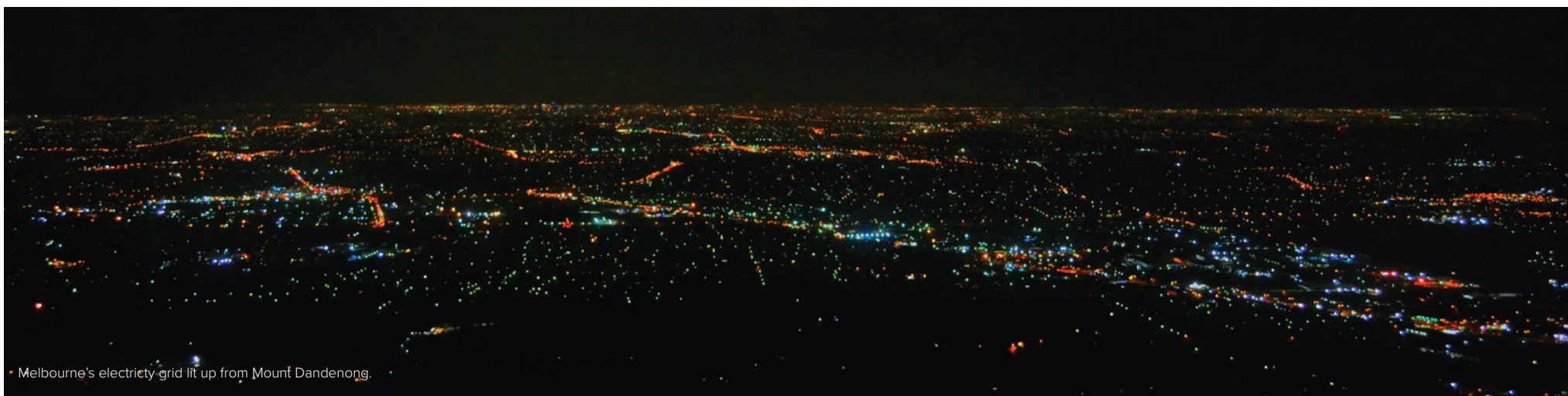
A closer look at the accounts gives a better idea of the operations of Renew. Page 14 of the accounts gives more detail of our income. It shows most of our income streams are reasonably steady with the exception of consulting income which dropped significantly as a number of projects were completed. We hope to see a bounce back in that income stream in the future. On the expenditure side (page 4 of the financials) there were small drops in most costs with small increases in rent and printing. While we have traded at a deficit it is encouraging to see our income is only declining slightly and slowly. This gives us some time to adjust where necessary, refocus and increase revenue.

Renew is needed now more than ever before. Governments around Australia, both at the Federal and State levels recognise the urgent need for action on climate change and

the other environmental challenges we face. Renew can be part of the solution by providing quality information that can help lead the transition we will see over the years to come. Our offerings can provide us with a path back to future financial surpluses and to Renew's long term prosperity.



Mick Harris
Treasurer



Melbourne's electricity grid lit up from Mount Dandenong.

Key Financial Statements

renew.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

This is a summary of our financial position as at 30 June 2023. This information has been taken from our audited financial statements, and a full copy can be downloaded from our website or available upon request. The audit of our financial records was completed by RSD Audit in October 2023.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue		
Revenue from operating activities	1,838,296	1,731,246
Other income	11,173	328,154
Total revenue	1,849,469	2,059,400
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	1,241,190	1,252,275
Consultants and professional fees	186,275	229,130
Printing and publishing expenses	162,309	159,581
Project materials	1,427	5,713
Postage and freight	86,207	97,859
Depreciation and amortisation	49,472	54,089
Subscriptions and memberships	32,014	39,567
Marketing expenses	54,829	63,412
IT and communications	46,660	69,732
Occupancy expenses	68,053	57,810
Travel expenses	8,663	845
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of asset	-	-
Other expenses	65,795	112,306
Total expenses	2,002,894	2,142,319
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(153,425)	(82,919)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(153,425)	(82,919)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended 30 June 2023

This is a summary of our financial position as at 30 June 2023. This information has been taken from our audited financial statements, and a full copy can be downloaded from our website or available upon request. The audit of our financial records was completed by RSD Audit in October 2023.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	446,326	228,044
Trade and other receivables	128,974	144,202
Other assets	27,118	336,338
Total current assets	602,418	708,584
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	18,853	16,917
Intangible assets	64,276	106,182
Total non-current assets	83,129	123,099
TOTAL ASSETS	685,547	831,683
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	(248,770)	(217,053)
Employee benefits	(78,396)	(45,143)
Contract liabilities	(391,833)	(458,157)
Total current liabilities	(718,999)	(720,353)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	(14,296)	(5,654)
Total non-current liabilities	(14,296)	(5,654)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(733,295)	(726,007)
NET ASSETS	(47,748)	105,676
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	(47,759)	105,666
Settled sum	10	10
TOTAL EQUITY	(47,749)	105,676

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

This is a summary of our financial position as at 30 June 2023. This information has been taken from our audited financial statements, and a full copy can be downloaded from our website or available upon request. The audit of our financial records was completed by RSD Audit in October 2023.

	Retained Earnings \$	Settled Sum \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2021	188,585	10	188,595
Result for the year	(82,919)	-	(82,919)
Balance at 30 June 2022	105,666	10	105,676
Balance at 1 July 2022	105,666	10	105,676
Result for the year	(153,425)	-	(153,425)
Balance at 30 June 2023	(47,759)	10	(47,749)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

This is a summary of our financial position as at 30 June 2023. This information has been taken from our audited financial statements, and a full copy can be downloaded from our website or available upon request. The audit of our financial records was completed by RSD Audit in October 2023.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	1,799,171	1,794,844
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,571,809)	(2,406,211)
Interest received	418	241
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	227,780	(611,126)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property plant and equipment	(9,500)	(4,419)
Proceeds from disposal of PPE	-	318,767
Purchase of intangible assets	-	(55,995)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	(9,500)	258,353
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	218,280	(352,773)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	228,044	580,817
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	446,324	228,044

renew.

Renew Australia
ABN 57 533 056 318
Reg No. A0017411T

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