

renew.



2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.

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Front Cover: Green Home Build by Sustainable Building and Design, a participating SHD 2021 House. Image by Dylan James.

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About Renew

Renew is a national, not-for-profit organisation that inspires, enables and advocates for people to live sustainably in their homes and communities.

Established in 1980, Renew provides expert, independent advice on sustainable solutions for the home to households, government and industry.

We have helped thousands of households reduce their environmental footprint and save money with information on energy efficiency, solar power, rainwater tanks, materials reuse and waste.

Renew advocates in government and industry arenas for easy access to sustainable solutions as well as continual improvement of the technology, information and products needed to change the way we live. Renew also provides consultancy services based on our technical expertise.

OUR TEAM THROUGHOUT 2021/2022

STAFF

Ajay Hooda	Jade Stergiou	Sam Cope	Doug Ferguson
Alex Holt	James King	Sophie Weiner	Gerlinde Scholz
Alli Burness	James Searle	Tom Hawking	Graham Hunt
Alli Fogarty	Jess Dorney	Paul Bowers	Grant Downie
Anna Cumming	John Knox	Rob McLeod	Jenita Enevoldsen
Carrie-Anne Winder	Kate Doyle	Robyn Deed	Jim Castles
David Watton	Kieran Harris	Sophie Liu	Kate Harris
Dean Lombard	Lance Turner	Sophie Weiner	Lea Lewin
Erin Cummins	Linda Cowan	Tom Hawking	Mark Burford
Gabriela Fannia	Lori Dalton		Michael O'Connell
Haresh Kumar	Maddy De Gabriele		Mick Harris
Harry Andrews	Mia McAuslan		Rick Molloy
Ian Robertson	Mohit Gulati		Sally Moxham
Jacqui Hagen	Olivia Wykes		Shailla Divakarla
	Paul Bowers		
	Rob McLeod		

BOARD

Alicia Webb
Clint Hare
Dick Clarke
Dominique La Fontaine

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

Alternative Technology Association (trading as 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). Alternative Technology Association (trading as Renew Australia) is an Incorporated Association under the Victorian Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

ABN 57 533 056 318
Reg No. A0017411T

CEO's Report

The 2021-22 Financial Year may be amongst the most eventful that Renew has ever navigated in its 42-year history. As I joined the organisation after this period my report here is brief, and yet when we look back there are distinct moments that stand out in the organisation's collective memory. Lockdowns, fires, CEO transitions, financial recovery, and a federal election in which millions of Australians put climate first at the ballot box. The organisation emerged on the other side of this time with a refreshed certainty of the strength in our community, and a renewed sense of determination regarding our goals.

The financial year began with the excitement at being back in the office together, settling into Renew's new home at Our Community House in North Melbourne after over a year working from home. Unfortunately, one afternoon in early August staff were met with two doses of difficult news arriving almost simultaneously: Renew's early home at CERES Environmental Park in Brunswick had burned down, and Melbourne was headed back into another COVID-19 lockdown — one that would turn out to last 77 days. Writing this in November 2022, it is hard to believe that the time covered in this report included one the longest lockdowns of any city in the world for a majority of our staff. It is a testament to the strength of the organisation that Renew weathered this difficult period and managed to navigate the complex set of impacts that the global pandemic had, particularly for the not-for-profit sector.

Throughout this time staff returned to working from home and pushed onward with the task of upgrading our database and improving our membership services. It was an immense exercise to tidy up over 40 years of legacy data across thousands of members and Renew was extremely fortunate that our community patiently supported us through this time. The resulting CRM allows us to connect with our members

more effectively, keep their information safe, and offer them a better membership experience. The pain was worth the effort.

Sustainable House Day also took place throughout the Melbourne lockdown, this time around as a hybrid event that offered expert online sessions facilitated by Renew, as well as in-person events from community partners and Renew branches around the country who were fortunate enough to not be living under lockdown restrictions. The event was extremely successful, with 52,124 people engaged nationally and 130 homes creating online house tours and profiles. While staff were not able to raise a glass together to celebrate, it was a nice way to round off the calendar year on a high.

In early 2022 CEO Paul Bowers departed the organisation, after working with Renew for two years. Shortly after, Renew was joined by interim CEO Kate Doyle, who brought a wealth of experience to the role, working with staff and board to develop a plan forward. It was throughout this period that the effects of a difficult few years started to be felt more acutely, and the pinch of the global pandemic really began to hurt. Our wider community actively stepped up to support the organisation with an incredibly successful fundraising campaign offering the stability needed for Renew to enter a phase of growth in the coming years. It is truly remarkable to see the loyalty and support that is apparent across our membership.

The federal election in May was an important moment for Renew, with the boost of motivation that came with a new government that promised stronger commitments on climate action. Our advocacy projects gained momentum as Renew formed a coalition of 105 organisations campaigning to raise energy standards in the National Construction Code. Simultaneously, our Green Rebuild Toolkit project continued to

assist people rebuilding after bushfire, as well as offering information about making homes more resilient in the face of climate disasters. Sustainable House Day was reimaged into a larger program of events that will reach more Australians on a broader range of topics. And throughout all of this, our much-loved magazines Sanctuary and Renew, continued to go from strength to strength, educating and inspiring Australians to live sustainably in their homes and communities. Shortly after the 2021-2022 financial year wrapped up, I joined Renew, and what a tremendous privilege it is to be here. In the few months that I have been in the role of CEO, I have been struck by the incredible commitment, knowledge, and passion that drives this organisation at every level — across our membership, staff, and board. After such a challenging period, there is a palpable sense of renewed hope and optimism within the organisation, and I look forward to working hard over the coming year to ensure that Renew is leading the way towards a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable future for all Australian homes and communities.



Fiona Gray
CEO

Board President's Report

"Renew inspires and engages with over a quarter of a million people each year in Australia and overseas, to take practical action on sustainable living".

In our 42nd year we have continued to deliver on this commitment.

During the year ending 2022 we achieved great things. These included:

- Coordinating a virtual Sustainable House Day in which 52,124 people participated in the middle of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Forming a coalition of 105 organisations to campaign for an uplift of energy standards in the National Construction Code;
- Continuing to deliver the Green Rebuild Toolkit to thousands of people, helping them rebuild their homes after bushfire in a climate resilient matter;
- Providing critical research into Fuel Choice Switching which assists the community to move away from fossil fuels;
- Assisting policy makers with our DER (Distributed Energy Resources) enablement research which allows greater integration of renewable energy into our power grid;
- Engaging, encouraging and inspiring our thousands of members through our national branch network, and
- Publishing more than 1,500 pages of quality information through our publications Renew and Sanctuary.

We achieved all this, but it was not an easy year for Renew. The impacts of the COVID-19 lockdowns had a serious impact on our activities and our ability to raise funds, with most staff working from home since early 2020. The entire sector felt impacts throughout this time, with opportunities slowing across Australia in terms of funding and projects. We are still working through those challenges today.

In February Paul Bowers departed the organisation after working with Renew as CEO for two years. The board then appointed Kate Doyle as interim CEO, who worked closely with the board to guide the organisation through a challenging period, to a position where we could look to the future and recruit Fiona Gray in a permanent capacity as CEO.

The Renew End of Financial Year Campaign was our most successful ever in our 42 years, showing the incredible level of grassroots support for the organisation.

There is a very important lesson to be learned from this recent period. During the Covid years a number of significant not-for-profit, sustainability-based organisations did not survive. There were risks for Renew as well. A key factor in our ongoing success was the deep and strong community base of the organisation. As a membership-based organisation with a long history we have deep roots in the community and thousands of people willing to come out of the woodwork and support us when we really needed it. This is one of the things that is unique to Renew.

I would like to thank the staff for their hard work and dogged persistence in keeping things going under difficult circumstances. Our office is based in Victoria where there were many lockdowns. This isolated the staff and created

pressures. To the staff who slogged on and kept on going I say a heartfelt thank you.

I also need to thank the board who contributed huge number of hours to find a way through the challenges and never lost faith in the organisation. The board members who served the full year are Graham Hunt, our incredibly competent Secretary, and Dick Clarke, our unflappable Treasurer. They worked alongside our other talented board members Shaila Divakarla, Jenita Enevoldsen, Alicia Webb and Clint Hare to create a strong and productive team.

Thanks also needs to be given to the members, supporters and former staff who worked away in the background making a major contribution to the strengthening of the organisation.

Renew is now in a prime position to make more impact than ever before. Our governments both federally and at a state level believe climate change is real and are committed to taking action. They need help in making the right policy decisions and then driving that change out through the community.

Renew can help... and we will.



Mick Harris
Board President

KEY WORK

Publications

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

Sanctuary is Australia's only dedicated sustainable house design magazine, profiling the best in environmentally aware architectural and design solutions. Throughout this period *Sanctuary* editor Anna Cumming continued to expand the magazine's scope and reach, tackling tough topics like more environmentally-friendly concrete options, bringing readers the 'less-is-more' inspiration of homes going small on size, site and budget, and looking at the creative home offices and garden rooms that have sprung up in the wake of Covid. The magazine also shone the spotlight on high-performing 8+ Star homes and covered such absorbing topics as urban microforests, creative green shading, and the potential to be found in relocating and restoring old houses.

Renew is the nation's premier magazine on practical, cost-effective technologies for an environmentally sustainable home and lifestyle. Editor Tom Hawking continued to evolve the magazine's look and feel, with further diversification of subject matter, covering *Renew*'s Green Rebuild Toolkit and with an increasing focus on the shift to electrification in all areas, including transport.

● Combined readership of over 90,000

● 25,687 social media followers



August 2021

Sanctuary 56 reflected themes from the Sustainable House Day program, with deep dives into the topics covered and a closer look at nine of the best homes opening across Australia.



July 2021

Renew 156 featured an introduction to The Green Rebuild Toolkit with resources for rebuilding after bushfire, as well as a buyers guide for EV charging equipment.



November 2021

Sanctuary 57 was a 'star power' special, with a focus on high star-rated homes that hit the sweet spot for low-bills comfort with minimal extra outlay.



October 2021

Renew 157 explored the future of personal transport and electric vehicles, wave power, the wonders of Indigenous foods, and changes to the National Construction Code.



March 2022

Sanctuary 58 explored the idea of 'less is more', detailing eco-home projects that are modest in size, cost or footprint, or cleverly fit on tiny blocks – and sometimes all of the above.



January 2022

Renew 158 included a special feature on Australia's water policy and also provided invaluable advice on water saving and DIY projects.



May 2022

Sanctuary 59 included a mini-feature on backyard builds: beautifully designed studios and sleepouts that occupy underutilised space, providing flexibility and increased functionality.



April 2022

Renew 159, we revisited one of our most popular buyers guides just in time for winter: the comprehensive heating buyers guide, with a detailed comparison of hydronic and reverse-cycle systems plus an overview of personal heating, tips for renters, and more.

Policy and Advocacy

Renew provides powerful advocacy generated from our practical experience, analysis, extensive networks and national reach. We advocate in government and industry arenas for policies that support and encourage sustainable living and housing. We push for the removal of barriers to make sustainable living affordable and accessible.

SHAPING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Renew has continued to be very focused on the significant transition happening in our energy markets as distributed energy resources (DER) such as solar and batteries continue to increase in number and size, new technologies (such as electric vehicles) and systems (such as orchestration of aggregated DER) emerge, and the energy grid changes dramatically as large-scale renewable energy generation increases and fossil fuel generation declines. As part of this advocacy, Renew has undertaken and participated in a number of influential projects and processes focused on transforming the national energy market to better equip it for a zero-carbon future. Key pieces of work include:

- Close engagement with the development of a framework for dynamic operating envelopes (DOEs) – responsive management of DER exports to maximise the values of household solar and batteries to the grid as a whole. This engagement has included participation in the DEIP Distributed Energy Integration Program) workstream on DOEs (including presenting at DEIP forums and workshops on the consumer considerations with implementing DOEs); membership;

of the SA Government's Dynamic Exports working group which helped develop the policy framework for implementing DOEs in SA; and advising energy networks in Victoria, NSW, SA, and Queensland on introducing DOEs;

- Advising Vic, NSW, SA, and Queensland distribution networks on implementing cost-reflective tariffs to help reflect the value of DER in the system;
- Advising the WA distribution network and electricity retailer on the economic and emissions value of household electrification;
- Undertaking an unprecedented and influential project in collaboration with energy consultancy Energeia and with funding from Energy Consumers Australia that identified and costed the various strategies distribution networks need to implement to integrate higher levels of DER into their networks, and used modelling to simulate the highest possible level of DER integration by 2050 (for which the benefits to all energy consumers exceed the costs of integrating the DER) in order to identify the regulatory, technological and market barriers to greater DER integration. Outcomes of this project have been used by state governments for network and energy transition planning, and by network businesses to inform their strategic planning and DER integration programs;
- Collaborative work with the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Victorian Council of Social Service on comprehensive engagement with Victorian gas distribution networks, the Victorian Government, and the Australian Energy Regulator for the Victorian Gas Access Arrangements process. In particular we were focused on the approach the gas networks have been taking (or not) to respond to the inevitability of the transition away from gas usage in residences.



CLIMATE RESILIENT HOMES

Renew has continued to lead a campaign for serious action to make Australia's homes fit for purpose in the face of the climate emergency.

Households should be at the centre of the energy transition. But we are still building too many poorly designed homes with low energy efficiency – locking in high energy bills, high emissions, and low resilience to winter cold and summer heat. Meanwhile, Australia's existing homes perform even worse.

Renew has worked hard to build a community coalition to bring a household voice to home energy policy and push for better standards for new and existing homes.

A core focus in 2021-22 was advocacy to lift minimum energy efficiency standards in the National Construction Code. After years of technical development, a consultation draft of the 2022 National Construction Code update was released in September 2021. The draft included an increase to minimum NatHERS ratings from 6 to 7 Stars, alongside the introduction of a new 'energy budget' favouring more efficient appliances and solar. Renew released "Households Better Off: Lowering bills with the 2022 National Construction Code", an independent analysis of the savings to households from the proposed changes. Our analysis showed that lifting standards would not only cut emissions, but would save households more money on energy bills than the cost of better building standards – leaving households better off from day one.

Renew coordinated submissions to the consultation and the accompanying Regulation Impact Statement from a coalition of community groups, with 55 organisations joining our formal

submission. Renew also built momentum for change by sharing our analysis in briefing events with stakeholders such as community groups, industry, government, climate NGOs, local councils, and the general public. Renew became the first consumer representative group invited to directly address the national Building Ministers Meeting. Renew's strategy of making consumers and households heard by decision makers was successful and led to an increase in standards announced in the 2022-23 financial year.

Meanwhile, our work on existing homes continued. Renew advocated in public and government processes for better consumer rights and the mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings when homes are sold or leased. Our advocacy team was on the executive committee of the national Healthy Homes for Renters campaign, pushing for minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes. Renew also

conducted original and independent modelling with SACOSS on the role improved energy efficiency and electrification can play in cutting the cost of living for South Australian renters.

We engaged closely with policies to transition away from residential gas, making detailed submissions to Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap and a parliamentary inquiry into renewables; Renew's analysis on the savings to households from going all-electric was featured in a range of major newspapers and TV networks.

Alongside Energy Consumers Australia and SEC Newgate, we managed a major consumer research project that provides a unique insight into consumer attitudes on home energy efficiency. The project provides a robust evidence base for policy makers and will be released in the 22/23 financial year.

Renew is continuing to advocate for an equitable energy transition that leaves nobody behind.



Expert Advice

Renew continues to guide people, communities, local councils and businesses in their decision making regarding sustainable technologies through our advisory services.

EXPERT CONSULTS

Renew offers Energy Consults to members and non-members, giving independent advice to households considering investing in energy technology, new appliances, or thermal upgrades for their houses. Consults always include discussion of what the household wants to achieve and what the best way to achieve it is, and may include energy modelling or quote assessments. Most consults are focused on installing solar and/or batteries or improving household efficiency, while some are about off-grid systems or more general discussions of a range of energy, water, and household amenity or quality of life issues.

● **87 consults given, including:**

● **60 consults through MCPH**

● **27 member consults**

In October 2021 the Metro Community Power Hub (MCPH) began an energy consultation program offering free, personal, energy consultations to residents of the metropolitan Melbourne region. The consults were delivered by Renew, offering expert advice to residents electing to install solar and efficient electric appliances/equipment in their home. Renew delivered 60 of these consults over the 21-22 Financial Year.

During 2021-22 Renew also continued to provide the calculator for the South Australian Government's Home Battery Scheme. Over the financial year over 7,000 people used the calculator.

SPEED DATE A SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT

Speed Date a Sustainability Expert is an event series designed by Renew that provides the opportunity for participants to sit down with Australia's leading green architects and sustainability experts to seek advice and guidance.

In the 2021-22 financial year, Renew conducted four popular Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events, all of which were run online via Zoom. Tailored advice was given to approximately 128 households with 47 sustainability

● **128 households connected with experts, including 65 rebuilding after bushfire**

experts ranging from architects and building designers to water and energy efficiency experts, builders and garden and solar specialists. Additionally, special Green Rebuild Toolkit events provided advice on retrofitting for bushfire resilience and rebuilding sustainably.

In the 2022 calendar year, the Speed Date a Sustainability Expert model was put on hold due to capacity constraints.

EXPERT WEBINARS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHERS

Renew worked with a number of local governments on furthering their sustainability goals throughout this period, including Yarra, Boroondara, Lane Cove, Moonee Valley, and Banyule. Renew provided expert webinars on a range of topics including all-electric homes, GreenPower, solar and batteries, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency, as well as producing a guide to going all-electric for City of Boroondara residents.

As well as local governments, Renew delivered a webinar on renewable energy at home (solar, batteries, and GreenPower) to Medibank staff, and produced a series of consumer information brochures on new energy technologies for Energy Consumers Australia.

● **Expert webinars delivered to 5 local councils**

KEY WORK

Projects

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

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.

During the 2021/22 financial year this project continued to deliver the set of resources that were previously developed.

A series of virtual Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events were facilitated, enabling over 120 fire-affected property owners to meet with a range of experts and get one-on-one advice. Households also had the opportunity to participate in lengthier one-on-one consultations with Renew experts, allowing them to further refine their house plans and maximise energy efficiency within the home.

Beyond BAL

Phase two of this work commenced in late 2021, with Renew engaging experts Douglas Brown and Nigel Bell to undertake a research project aiming to extend the understanding of best practice beyond the complicated and variable Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating system. To inform this work, Renew is currently invited designers and architects to submit designs for consideration across three criteria: cost, sustainability, and bushfire resilience. These

homes will be assessed by experts to develop a set of case studies that will provide guidance for people affected by bushfire rebuilding their homes. Due to their combined research, design and building experience, Dr Douglas Brown of Bushfire Architecture and Nigel Bell from ECODesign Architects have been engaged to assess submitted designs. The findings of this research will be presented through a number of events in early 2023, as well as through content for both *Sanctuary* and *Renew* Magazine.

Retrofitting for Resilience

The second phase of this project also entails a number of events, that will focus on retrofitting existing homes rather than rebuilding after fire. These events will be delivered in the 2022/23 Financial Year.



Walkerville Magic Beach House by Imogen Pullar Architects, a submission for the Beyond BAL project. Photography by Marnie Hawson.

SOLAR IN TIMOR LESTE

Over nearly 20 years, Renew has worked to improve access to solar lighting and electricity for remote communities in Timor Leste.

Last year, Renew made the difficult decision to bring our engagement in Timor Leste to a close. As organisations globally felt the pinch of this difficult year, Renew decided to focus on its core mission to help Australians live more sustainably. Renew committed, however, to supporting our partners to see our remaining projects and obligations through to completion. Initially, we had hoped that this would be completed by June 2021, but the combined impact of

cyclone Seorja and COVID-19 outbreaks has meant that these projects are still underway.

Even with all these challenges, our local partners have done a commendable job at keeping things moving. The successful Light Up Timor Through Enterprise project aimed to support a Timorese social enterprise in establishing an enterprise to install solar system on remote households. The intent was to move away from Renew's historical Village Lighting Program which relied heavily on Renew to fund and manage installation – in essence to move from a donor approach to an enterprise approach. The project reached 335 households with an additional 320 solar systems financed ready for installation. The social enterprise continues to this date installing solar

systems, collecting repayments and purchasing additional equipment, which is a great sign of sustainability.

Additionally, the Light up Atauro project aims to install four solar systems on community buildings (e.g. health clinics, schools) in off-grid areas of Atauro Island. The equipment has been purchased and installation is due to happen in the coming months.

Plastic Recycling Project aimed to install one solar system on a micro-plastic recycling plant on Atauro Island, which is a larger and more complex system than Renew's normal installations in Timor-Leste. Pro-bono work was provided by Energy Terrain for system design, and the equipment has been preassembled and will be shipped shortly.



Events

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 unique sustainable homes.

In 2021, Sustainable House Day expanded into a month-long event, featuring four themed weeks of webinars with experts and homeowners as well as an all-day program of free online events on October 17. In addition, our community partners around the country hosted their own in person and online events during this period. On our website, 133 house profiles were available, with video house tours providing a look into our homeowners' journeys.

This was the second year holding the event primarily online, and it was great success. The vast majority of attendees who filled out our post-event survey (82%) described their Sustainable House Day experience as "excellent" or "very good". Our audience members and homeowners were engaged and inspired by our events and the content available on the Sustainable House Day website.

Even as the pandemic recedes, the last two years have shown us the value of incorporating online events into Sustainable House Day. Many participants praised the accessibility and diversity of our online offerings compared to the solely in-person events of past years. In the future, we hope to draw from the best of both event formats to create a Sustainable House Day with the benefits of both online accessibility and in-person community.

We couldn't have made this transition successfully without our sponsors, participating homeowners, experts panellists, and the broader network that makes Sustainable House Day so special. This community allows the flexibility and capacity necessary to create a national event that inspires and educates thousands of people.

● 130 open homes nationally

● 30 expert topic events

● 24 Community Partners

● 5 Council Partners

● 52,124 people engaged on social media

● 15,000+ house tour video views

● 8,612 online event attendees

● 114,650 website visits



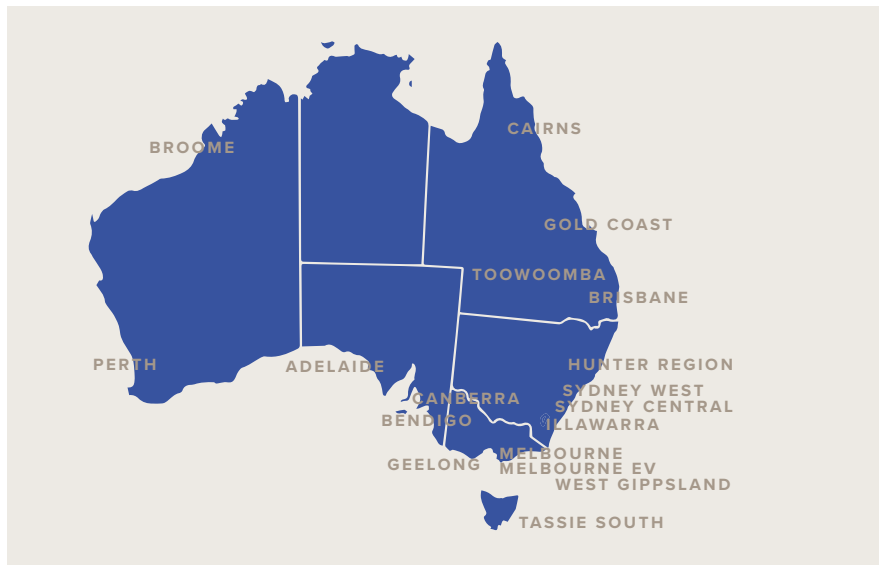
Members' Branches

Each year Renew engages with more than 250,000 people around Australia and beyond. Our Members' Branches are 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.

This year has seen the creation of two new Branches. With new leadership and energy, the Hunter Branch has come out of recess and engaged with their local community. The newly formed West Gippsland branch has emerged with a passion for information sharing regarding the benefits of high-performance dwellings.

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.



←RENEW MEMBERS' BRANCH LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT 2021/2022

● 33 events hosted

● 2,000 individual event attendees

● Attracted \$7,359 in revenue



Chris Moss of the Melbourne Branch

Major Supporters & Project Funders

Renew is grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year, which included the biggest fundraising campaign in our 42 year history. We value every funding opportunity and donation, and strive to maximise their impact to enable, inspire and advocate for sustainable living. We would like to thank our major supporters throughout the year including:

Anderson Architecture
Australian Communities Foundation

Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
Boundless Earth
Community Impact Foundation
Energy Consumers Australia
GlobalGiving Foundation
JN Winter Master Builders
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Pinpoint Pty Ltd
Riki Davidson Hope Foundation
Rotary Club of Adelaide
Rotary Club of Doncaster
SPIIRE
The Mullum Trust
TRADEWIND

Adam Thomson
Anne Attard
Belinda Hopcroft
Bernadette Cullinane
Bob Sutton
Brendan Condon
Bronwen Clucas
Bronwyn Clarke
Cheryl Sheard
Chris Moss
Corline Le Couteur
David Allsop
Duncan Hall
Gary Swanson
Gaye McCulloch

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Patricia and Richard Gilbert
Peggy Mansfield
Ralf Thesing
Robert Cook
Robert Day
Rodney Peters

S. Berwick
Shailla Divakarla
Stephen Wright
Steve Bradley
Tom Tootell

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

LEGACY GIVING

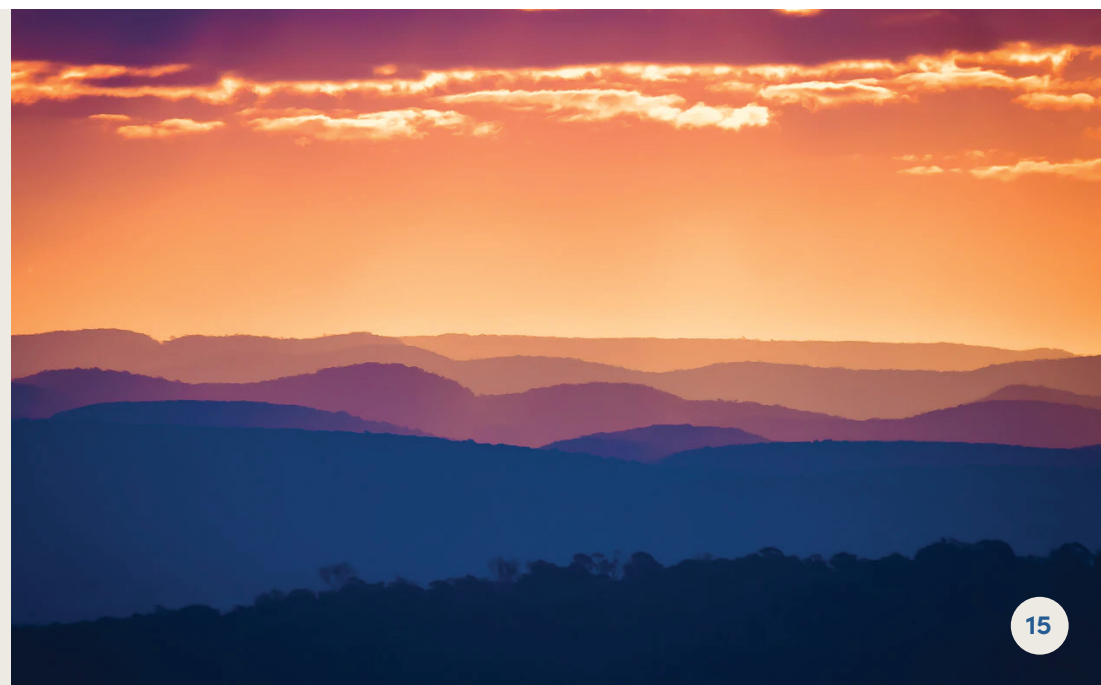
Every gift, no matter the size, makes a significant difference and identifies you as a Sustainer in Renew's Community of Change.

When we reflect on what our legacy will be, loved ones always come first. For many Australians, there is also room to support causes and issues that we are passionate about, by leaving a gift in your Will or naming a charity as a beneficiary of your life insurance or superannuation.

By supporting Renew with a bequest, you are helping us to inspire, represent and enable sustainable living in households and communities across Australia. Your gift will help generate a tipping point in sustainability, creating a legacy that is both long-lived and without borders.

Renew is also happy to accept donations in honour of, or in memoriam.

For more information and contact details please visit <https://renew.org.au/donate/legacy-giving>



Thank you

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

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.

SPONSORS

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NatHERS
Design For Place
Bank Australia
Spring Home Show
Light House Architecture and Science
HipVHipe
Banyule Council
Boroondara Council
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City of Monash
Randwick City Council

HOMEOWNERS

Sustainable House Day wouldn't be possible without the dedication and passion of our homeowners who adapted to an online format this year and made virtual house profiles, all in the name of sharing their sustainability journey. Thank you for all you do.

MONASH UNIVERSITY INTERNS

We had outstanding help from Gabriela Fannia and Rebecca How who worked with us two days a week to edit homeowner videos, produce social media content and on administration duties.

PRESENTERS AND MCS

Alan Leenaerts
Andy Lemann
Anna Cumming
Brian Mollan
Chris & Kat Jones
Clayton McDowell
Clint Hare
Damien Moyse
Daniel Berry
Dean Lombard
Emma Scragg
Geoff Cameron
Graeme Scott
Helen Beazley
Howard Elston
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Jen Wetselaar
Jenny Edwards
John Brenan
John Hay
Julie Mulhauser
Lance & Jenni Banister-Jones
Lassity Martin
Liz Martin
Loretta Murray
Luke Middleton
Malcolm McKelvie
Marc Bernstein-Hussmann
Martin Anda

Thank you

Matthew Saxon
Melinda Marshall
Melinda Thomas
Nigel Bell
Paul Cooper
Richard Lockhart
Sally Maguire
Simon Clarke
Tom Lerner

SPEED DATE A SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT

Alan Pears
Andreas Weiler
Antony DiMase
Brett Aylen
Daniel O'Neil
Darren Vonthethoff
David Stefanovic
Davina & Trev Snyders
Dick Clark
Ella Wood
Ellen Buttrose
Emma Scragg
Gareth Almond
Gaven Gilmour
Geraldine Petit
Glen Morris
Graham Hunt

Griff Morris
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Ian Sercombe
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Lucy Williams
Luke Morton
Matt Kennedy
Max Brammer
Michael Villis
Mits Delisle
Nancy Lau
Nigel Bell
Paul Butterworth
Paul Dolphin
Paul Worroll
Peter McArdle
Pippa Buckberry
Rob Norman
Robert Sporne
Sally Knight
Saxon Hall
Stephanie Skyring
Stephen Sims

Steve Dedrick
Tim Bennetton
Tom McKenzie

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Rebecca How — Monash University
Gabreila Fannia — Monash University
Gabriel Holmes — University of Melbourne

**Once again, Renew would like to
sincerely thank all Staff and Board
Members who gave so much to this
organisation throughout this period.**

STAFF

Ajay Hooda
Alex Holt
Alli Burness
Alli Fogarty
Anna Cumming
Carrie-Anne Winder
David Watton
Dean Lombard
Erin Cummins
Gabriela Fannia
Hareesh Kumar
Harry Andrews
Ian Robertson
Jacqui Hagen
Jade Stergiou
James King
James Searle

Jess Dorney
John Knox
Kate Doyle
Kieran Harris
Lance Turner
Linda Cowan
Lori Dalton
Madeleine De Gabriele
Mia McAuslan
Mohit Gulati
Olivia Wykes
Paul Bowers
Rob McLeod
Sam Cope
Sophie Weiner
Tom Hawking
Paul Bowers
Rob McLeod
Robyn Deed
Sophie Liu
Sophie Weiner
Tom Hawking

BOARD

Alicia Webb
Clint Hare
Dick Clarke
Dominique La Fontaine
Doug Ferguson
Gerlinde Scholz
Graham Hunt
Grant Downie

Jenita Enevoldsen
Jim Castles
Kate Harris
Lea Lewin
Mark Burford
Michael O'Connell
Mick Harris
Rick Molloy
Sally Moxham
Shaila Divakarla

Treasurer's Report

The 2021/2022 period has been a difficult time for many organisations. At Renew we have confronted some significant challenges, and seen some heart-warming results. We are in a much more positive position now than we were a year ago. However no organisation can afford to rest on its laurels, or become complacent, or assume that 'same old' processes and activities will not need adaptation to changed circumstances.

Renew's board and staff have had to cast off some old and embrace some new, without throwing babies out with bathwater, because we definitely have some very valuable babies in our core activities. Finding new ways to engage with the broader community, and some new people to deliver that engagement has meant both board and staff have been stretched in both their time and initiative. Without the unfailing commitment and dedication of our wonderful staff we would not be in the positive position we are in now. We have greatly improved our previously inadequate internal accounting and cash-flow projection visibility.

Projected cash position for the year December 2021 to November 2022, we expect a total income of \$2,131m and expenses of

\$2.014m, with an operating surplus of \$117.4k. This is not quite as rosy it appears as it includes a one-off insurance payout on the building at CERES. Thus our cash balance increased by \$236.8k from \$316.9k as at 31 Oct 2021 to \$553.7k at 31 Oct 2022.

Clearly challenges remain, and complacency is not an option.

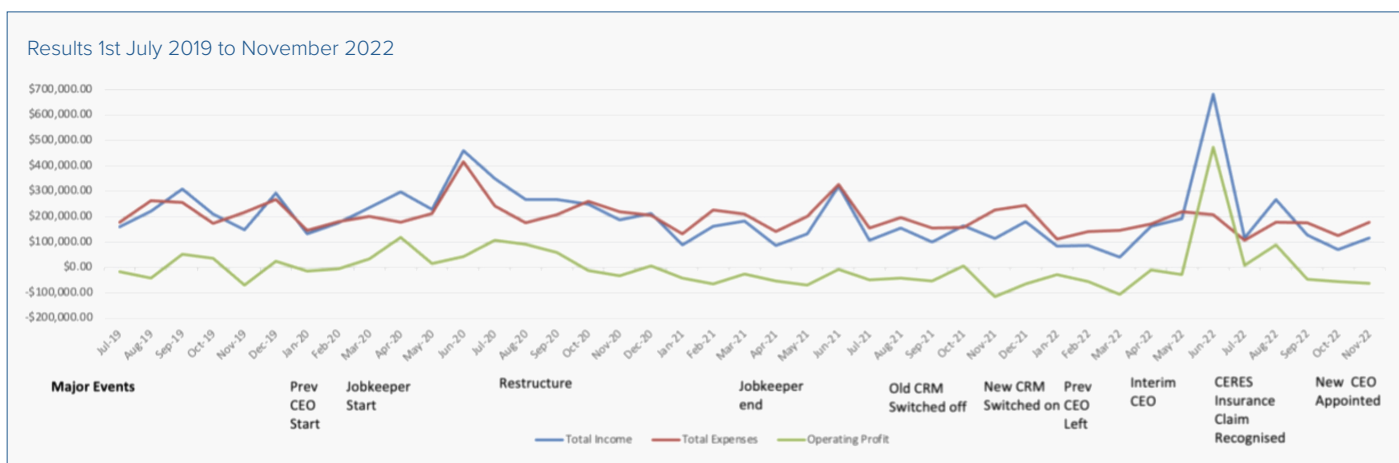
Within weeks of last year's AGM we were informed of a \$120,000 shortfall in cashflow for December-January, and on examination of the cashflow projections we were facing an ongoing decline, which would not have ended well without urgent intervention. Thanks to the generosity of Renew's wonderful supporters, the efforts of fellow board members, amazing staff tenacity, and our new CEO, we have managed to turn that around to a large extent, though we still need to increase revenue in the longer term.

The need to grow staff numbers so we can meet the opportunities, and reduce the load on currently

over-committed staff is the next priority. We have made the administration and service delivery side of the operations as lean and efficient as can be, and our focus is now on monetising more of the services that we provide, without cutting off access to our grass roots activities. Like many non-profit organisations, we have had a tendency to under-value some of the things we do, especially in delivery of events and information services to government bodies. The recent sad closure of The Australian Energy Foundation demonstrates the vulnerability of NFPs when margins are insufficient. Sourcing a major cash injection in a hurry is the stuff of dreams for any organisation struggling with the need to grow quickly, and while we are always on the lookout for such opportunities and would never turn a good offer down, the reality is we have to rely on being able to work away at building cash over a 12 to 24 month period. A business plan and budget are an ongoing work in progress for the Board, the CEO and senior staff. The insurance payout on the building at CERES of over \$300,000 has benefited the short term cashflow, but does not form part of the future business plan.

We are confident that the next 12 months will see an ongoing uplift in finances, that confidence being based on clear and real-time accounting and cash-flow projections, and the robust business planning under the guidance of our new CEO. But the challenge remains that to grow we need cash, and without cash it is difficult to grow.

Members are directed to the Profit & Loss and Balance spreadsheets which are included in the AGM papers, and to the graph (below) showing our cash position since July 2019.



Dick Clarke
Treasurer

Key Financial Statements

renew.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		
Revenue from operating activities	1,731,246	2,148,263
Other income	328,154	364,278
Total revenue	2,059,400	2,512,541
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	1,252,275	1,292,055
Consultants and professional fees	229,130	283,489
Printing and publishing expenses	159,581	172,843
Project materials	5,713	123,370
Postage and freight	97,859	115,888
Depreciation and amortisation	54,089	76,203
Subscriptions and memberships	39,567	67,659
Marketing expenses	63,412	62,238
IT and communications	69,732	153,677
Occupancy expenses	57,810	44,545
Travel expenses	845	833
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of asset	-	93,823
Other expenses	112,306	69,328
Total expenses	2,142,319	2,555,951
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(82,919)	(43,410)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(82,919)	(43,410)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	228,044	580,817
Trade and other receivables	144,202	346,615
Other assets	336,338	28,795
Total current assets	<u>708,584</u>	<u>956,227</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	16,917	31,130
Intangible assets	106,182	96,500
Total non-current assets	<u>123,099</u>	<u>127,630</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>831,683</u></u>	<u><u>1,083,857</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	(217,053)	(209,535)
Employee benefits	(31,602)	(53,649)
Contract liabilities	(458,157)	(621,921)
Total current liabilities	<u>(706,812)</u>	<u>(885,105)</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	(19,195)	(10,157)
Total non-current liabilities	<u>(19,195)</u>	<u>(10,157)</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>(726,007)</u>	<u>(895,262)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u><u>105,676</u></u>	<u><u>188,595</u></u>
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	105,666	188,585
Settled sum	10	10
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>105,676</u></u>	<u><u>188,595</u></u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Retained Earnings \$	Settled Sum \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	231,995	10	232,005
Result for the year	(43,410)	-	(43,410)
Balance at 30 June 2021	188,585	10	188,595
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

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from customers	1,794,844	2,642,021
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,406,211)	(2,552,571)
Interest received	241	871
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(611,126)</u>	<u>90,321</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property plant and equipment	(4,419)	(20,888)
Proceeds from disposal of PPE	318,767	-
Purchase of intangible assets	(55,995)	(61,338)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	<u>258,353</u>	<u>(82,226)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(352,773)	8,095
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	580,817	572,722
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u><u>228,044</u></u>	<u><u>580,817</u></u>

ATA Solar Workshop



RENEW'S EARLY HOME

Sadly, during this reporting period Renew lost a piece of organisational history. The ATA solar workshop at CERES was irreparably damaged in a fire at CERES in August 2021.

This solar workshop at CERES was a core part of the beginnings of Renew. Built by Mick Harris and a crew of volunteers in the early 2000s, it was the organisation's first base. Mick speaks of rallying volunteers every Friday evening for years in this video celebrating Renew's history — "It took about four years of weekends. At the same time we were running meetings and activities and producing the magazine [Soft Technology, later renamed ReNew]."

Pictured here are some of the early staff and volunteers who build the workshop, including current President Mick Harris and Technical Editor Lance Turner. This photo was taken in 2003, and featured the electric milk float used to haul the bluestone for the workshop.

renew.

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Reg No. A0017411T

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