

**renew.**  
Leading in sustainability

2019

**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.*



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EMMA CROSS PHOTOGRAPHY

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Leading in sustainability

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# About Renew

## ***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.



Renew (Alternative Technology Association trading as Renew Australia) 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 save money and reduce their environmental footprint 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.

***“Australians will live in comfortable, healthy and resilient homes that consume minimal energy, water and resources, and produce zero emissions from energy and transport.”***

# CEO's Report

## *Part of our long-term strategic vision, Strategy 2025: Renewing Australia, is to scale up our impact to ensure that sustainable living is affordable and accessible to all Australians.*

In 2018/19 we launched two major initiatives that address longer-term challenges and the systemic change we need to enable equitable and sustainable homes and communities.

More than 3000 Australians are estimated to die each year due to extremes of hot and cold weather – almost double the number of Australians that die in road accidents. As Renew members know, the best (but often forgotten) way to reduce the carbon emissions of our homes is to ensure that they are well-designed, insulated and sealed. The beneficial flow-on effect is homes that are healthier, more comfortable and more affordable to heat and cool.

So in late 2018, we launched our Climate Resilient Homes campaign to push for higher energy efficiency standards for all Australian homes. Renew is now leading a coalition of over 65 social, health and environmental organisation advocating for this change. With support from industry partners we have had a number of successes already and the momentum continues to build.

Another longer-term issue that we are addressing is that of potential barriers to grid export from rooftop solar systems. This is occurring due to the substantial penetration of solar PV in electricity networks and technical issues that can occur during periods of high generation and low electricity demand. Renew is leading a project bringing together industry, government and consumer representatives to develop best-practice solutions that help foster household solar's role in the transition to a 100% renewable grid.

Building on nearly 40 years of knowledge and experience, Renew is well-placed to lead this transition. With solid evidence and innovation at its core, Renew is well-recognised as a trusted, independent source.

Along with many other projects, our innovative work includes Hepburn Z-NET, co-developed with the Hepburn community and other partners. It is an Australian-first, best-practice model for how the Hepburn Shire can reach a carbon-neutral goal in a framework of social and environmental justice within 10 years.

It has been a big year of change as we continue to invest in the future of the organisation. It has not been without its challenges, but we are starting to see the benefits of our investments in new websites and systems.

Funding from donations continues to grow and so does the number of people attending Renew events. Since taking over Sustainable House Day in 2016, the event has doubled in size and, with 50% of people attending the event for the first time every year, we are reaching an ever-wider audience looking for sustainable solutions. We are also seeing a more diverse range of homes opening on the day, such as apartments and homes built by volume builders, signaling a positive trend that our housing of the future will be fit-for-purpose. Our *Renew* and *Sanctuary* magazines continue to inspire people across the country and gather the latest information on sustainable technologies and buildings.

Renew's steadfast commitment to inspire, enable and advocate for sustainable homes and communities means we will keep providing the solutions for sustainability, renewables and a green economy until these are thoroughly mainstream.

Thank you to the hardworking and talented Renew staff and support from the Board including our retiring President Helen Millicer, Darren O'Beirne, Tristy Fairfield, and Caroline Pidcock. A special thank you to all our volunteers, partners and donors who are vital for Renew to achieve our goals.

And finally, nothing is possible without our dedicated members who have been actively working for a sustainable future for years, creating change in their own lives and communities, helping create the groundswell for a sustainable future for all.

Together, we can reshape all our homes to be more equitable, healthy, sustainable and resilient to a changing climate.



*Donna Luckman*  
CEO

# President's Report

*Challenging times test the mettle and resolve of all of us. 2018-19 will go down in history as a marker of what is to come.*

Renew's board and the organisation is anticipating and planning for that future. From increased costs and investments and louder voices about the climate emergency, to growing coalitions on housing affordability and comfort, we are all being swept forward to change our way of life, economy and environment. We see this at Renew with increased attendance at our Sustainable House Day, increased donations and growing calls amongst Australians for more sustainable solutions.

Having put in place many of the fundamentals, including strategy, rebrand, fundraising systems, and growth in our events program, 2018-19 was another year of investment and delivery for Renew.

A key strategic priority has been the launch of our Climate Resilient Homes campaign. With this shift into advocacy, Renew has been central to a new coalition of 65 groups calling for urgent action on improved energy performance of all our homes. Outcomes include commitments from the Council of Australian Government Energy Ministers, and Renew being the first and only consumer representative organisation in National Construction Code technical committee.

This work is vital in achieving Renew's goal, namely that all Australians have access to comfortable, sustainable and affordable homes. There are many other achievements described in this Annual Report and they include:

**Inspiring:** Our popular Electric Vehicle Expo with over 2,000 attendees, new website with a wealth of information, over 220 homes open for Sustainable House Day, welcoming more than 33,000 visits from keen Australians, and our Speed Date a Sustainability Expert program with local councils. Our magazines *Renew* and *Sanctuary* have growing readership, our e-bulletins inspire a growing subscriber audience, and our 13 branches across Australia engage with their local communities.

**Enabling:** Our actions solving electricity grid challenges given the phenomenal growth in roof top solar across Australia, expansion of the successful Sunulator model to determine the costs of overshadowing, and formation of economic models on electric vehicles for home energy storage. Renew continues its longstanding contribution to Timor Leste's sustainable future with solar installations, training, and employment for self-sufficiency.

**Advocating:** We employed our first Sustainable Housing Advocate for our Climate Resilient Homes Campaign, called for the important Australian Energy Market Operator to plan for 100% renewable scenarios, and advocated for other changes to our energy systems, including consumer friendly energy markets and codes of practice to protect consumers.

2019-20 will continue to be a period of transition and delivery for Renew. There will be new people and insights, new campaigns and further investment and outcomes. Our work is only growing in importance.

All these past achievements and future projects would not be possible without the commitment of our members, volunteers, sponsors, donors, branches, committees and dedicated staff, many of whom are acknowledged in this Annual Report. On behalf of the board, many thanks for all your contributions.

After serving my full six years, this is my final year as President and on the board. It has been a great honour, a partnership with outstanding colleagues, and an astonishing experience to lead the board and organisation with its transformation and to help drive the change in Australia. In closing I especially want to thank:

- My husband James Maude for his unwavering support and good humour and my family and friends who have joined in our Open Days, tours, test drives and branch presentations
- Donna Luckman, CEO in sharing and leading so many steps in transforming ATA into Renew
- Fellow continuing members on the Renew Board and our committees, and retiring members in 2019: Tristy Fairfield, Caroline Pidcock and Darren O'Beirne.

Renew has a bright and challenging future. As directors and staff, we are custodians for the vision of Renew and responsible for maximising the potential of the organisation to inspire, engage and campaign to deliver a sustainable future for Australia and Australians.

All the best to you all, and see you again in the journey of Renew!



*Helen Millicer  
President*

*Renew walks the talk by ensuring that our own practices and operations are sustainable. We make sure that we have a low environmental footprint, reduced carbon emissions and a comfortable and healthy work environment.*

## **MATERIALS & RECYCLING**

All office food waste is composted and the compost used in staff members' gardens. Paper, glass, cardboard, plastic containers and aluminium are recycled, as well as electronic waste, polystyrene, CDs, ink and toner cartridges, plastic film, batteries and light globes.

## **TRANSPORT**

The Renew office is located in Melbourne's CBD with staff walking, using public transport or riding a bike to commute to work. Renew uses the GoGet carshare company, and the hybrid and wholly electric vehicles in its fleet when they are available.

Air travel emissions are offset through our social enterprise Community Climate Chest (C3), a joint project of Renew and ACX Argyle. The initiative allows proceeds from the purchase of carbon offsets and GreenPower to go back to environment groups.

## **OFFICE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT**

We choose fair-trade, organic products for staff tea, coffee and sugar. Milk, honey and soy sauce are sourced from a local organic supplier and our

own containers taken and refilled. We purchase 100% post-consumer waste tissues and toilet paper and bulk eco dishwashing liquid and eco handwash to refill our own dispensers. The most environmentally friendly stationery options, postage bags and packing materials are purchased where possible and items reused, refilled and recycled when they can be.

Any new office equipment, including printers and computers, are chosen based on energy consumption, consumables and recyclability.

## **ENERGY**

Renew purchases offsets for its office electricity through our C3 social enterprise. Renew's rented office has energy-efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems. There are openable windows and ceiling fans. We have installed a smart meter display which enables us to monitor in real-time our electricity consumption, and ensure all standby loads are turned off at the end of the working day.

## **PAPER AND PRINTING**

All office documents and brochures are printed on recycled stock using vegetable-based inks.

Our office paper is 100% recycled post-consumer waste and is recommended by The Wilderness Society in their Ethical Paper Guide. Renew membership cards are also 100% post-consumer recycled stock, are fully recyclable and supplied by a sustainable printer.

We are always looking for ways to minimise the amount of office copy paper used and prefer e-marketing options and use of email instead of paper products for promotions.

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



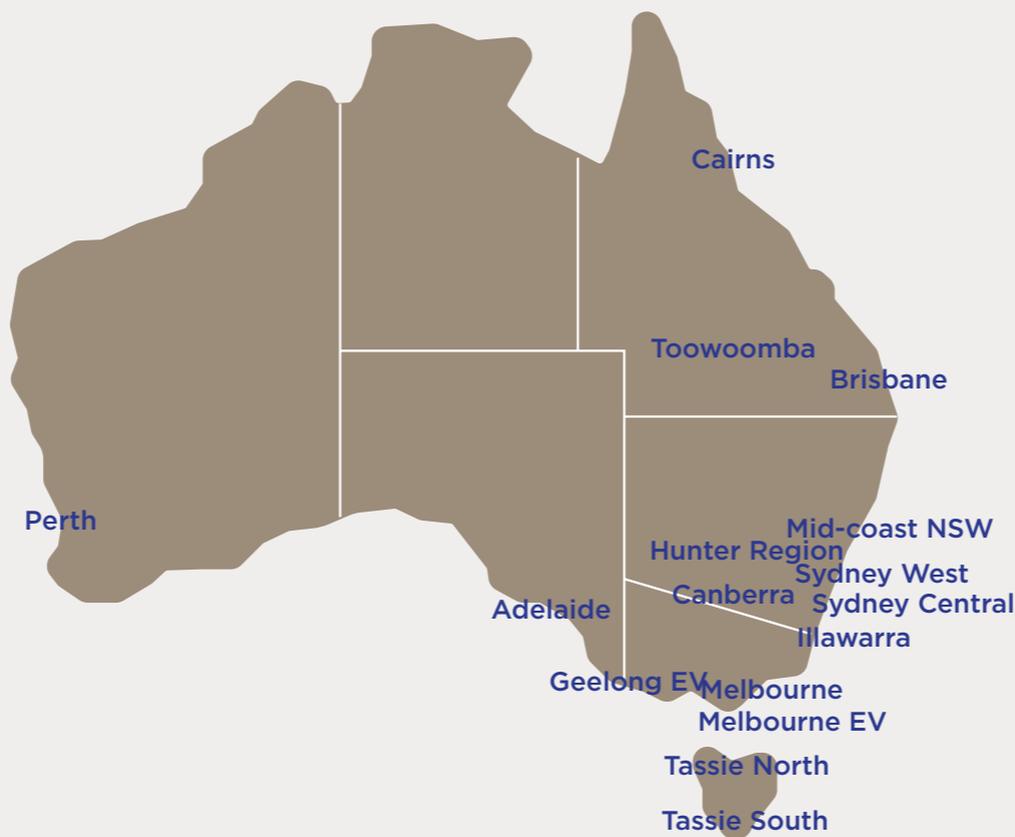
We are  
talking  
about  
SUST-  
HOUSE  
DAY

# Our Reach

*Renew engages with more than 250,000 people each year around Australia and beyond. We work with more than 11,000 members in a network of 16 active branches throughout the country.*

Our community of action includes readers of our two market-leading sustainability magazines *Renew* and *Sanctuary*, attendees at our Sustainable House Day, EV Expo and Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events, users of our online information and calculators, people contacting our advice service, and our research and advocacy partners.

Our network of branches includes Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Geelong EV, Illawarra, Melbourne, Melbourne EV, Mid-coast NSW, Hunter, Perth, Sydney West, Sydney, Tassie North, Tassie South and Toowoomba.



## RENEW BRANCHES ACROSS AUSTRALIA

### MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS



25,739 Member reach & over 1000 volunteers



1000 unique donors & 1480 advice consults



108,654 publications readership

### DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



33,000 users of tools or advice



319,393 website visitors & 55,000 news subscribers



38,853 social media followers

### EVENTS



33,024 visitors on Sustainable House Day



Talks >2500  
Branches >5000  
Expert consults >744  
Festivals >2000



Over 2000 Electric Vehicle Expo visitors

### ADDITIONAL IMPACTS



40,000 people benefiting from solar lighting in Timor-Leste



Media reach



Over 200 project partners and affiliations

# Inspiring Change

*Renew conducts popular national and local community events showcasing real-life sustainable solutions for homes. Our vital, independent and practical magazines and website include case studies of households and communities, providing information to inspire action.*

## NEW WEBSITE

In October 2018 we launched our new website, which brings all our resources together into one site. The website includes the latest articles from *Renew* and *Sanctuary* magazines, as well as 'How We Can Help' pages with answers to frequently asked questions about sustainable design, practices and technologies.

Since launching the website, visitor numbers have increased by 14%, sessions have increased by 24%, the time spent on the website has increased by 60% and the bounce rate has dropped by about 55%.

Thank you to the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation for supporting the development of the website.

## RENEW & SANCTUARY MAGAZINES

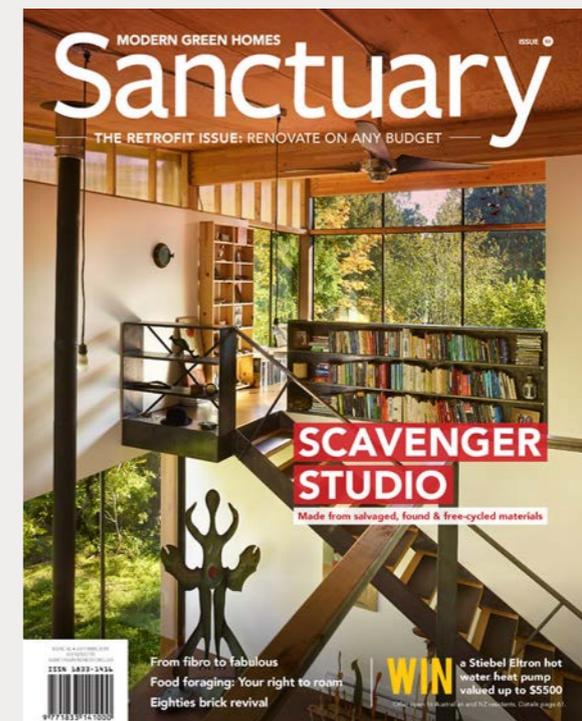
Our magazines *Renew: technology for a sustainable future* and *Sanctuary: modern green homes* continue to provide leading independent information on trends in sustainable technology and design, with a combined readership of 113,000, e-bulletin reach of 24,137 and social media audience of 17,070.

As part of the rebranding of the organisation as *Renew* this year, *Renew* magazine got a new

style, including losing its capital 'N'. But the magazine continued its approach of digging deep into issues surrounding sustainable technologies and providing guidance on best practice. The magazine produced several 'firsts', with our first-ever buyers guides on cooling, draughtproofing and MVHR systems (mechanical ventilation with heat recovery), and deepened our analysis of efficient electric homes with a buyers guide on electric heating systems.

*Sanctuary* magazine continued to strike a chord with readers, looking inside the most inspiring green homes across Australia and New Zealand and offering articles on hot topics such as Passive House design, cradle-to-cradle construction, and renovating on any budget. The summer issue featuring 'a house for \$100k' enjoyed particularly high sales. The magazine received a fresh new look late in the year.

*"We love getting both *Renew* and *Sanctuary* – they are the only two print journals we subscribe to and are the highlight of our week when they arrive."*



## ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO

Over 2000 people came down to the Melbourne International Karting Complex on Saturday 16 March to enjoy the 2019 Electric Vehicle Expo.

Many of the latest electric vehicles were on display and available to test drive or ride, including offerings from 19 car, bike, scooter and skateboard manufacturers and dealers. The Show'n'Shine competition for private vehicles attracted 28 entries, and exhibitors displayed charging infrastructure alongside an impressive array of guest speakers – all in celebration of the present and future of green transport.

In the lead-up to the main event, on Friday 15 March, fleet managers and other industry stakeholders gathered for an afternoon of informative presentations on the integration of electric vehicles into government and commercial fleets.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers of the Melbourne Electric Vehicle Branch for the expo.

*Image: Lily D'Ambrosio, Victorian Minister for Energy and Environment, trying out the Solar TukTuk at the EV Expo.*



# Inspiring Change

## SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY

On 16 September 2018, the biggest Sustainable House Day ever saw 33,024 visits recorded at 226 homes across Australia. With over 50% of visitors attending for the first time, the event continues to grow a new audience since Renew took on management of the event in 2017. A significant level of media coverage including television, radio, print and online publications was garnered.

Post-event surveys conducted in the month after the event with Swinburne and Monash Universities highlighted the event's impact. Over 30% of visitors had already taken action, 59% were planning to include sustainable features in their homes in the near future and 81% had shared what they'd learnt with friends and family.

## SPEED DATE A SUSTAINABILITY EXPERT

In 2018/19, Renew conducted seven popular Speed Date a Sustainability Expert events in three states in collaboration with local councils. Tailored advice was given to 317 people through 744 'dates' with 77 sustainability experts ranging from architects and building designers to water and energy efficiency experts, builders and garden and solar specialists.



*“What surprised me the most about Sustainable House Day was how many houses there were, how easy it was to incorporate ideas and that it looked achievable for standard house build cost.”*



# Enabling Change

*Renew provides quality, independent advice tailored to individual household and community needs through our in-house consultancy services and network of industry professionals. Our advisory services are supported by our cutting-edge research and economic modelling into existing and emerging sustainable technology for households and communities.*

## ADVISORY SERVICE

Renew continues to guide people, communities, local councils and businesses in their decision-making regarding sustainable technologies through our advisory services. Renew's fee-for-service energy consultations provide detailed advice on solar, batteries, heating, cooling, hot water, other major appliances, building efficiency and energy bill management.

Since its release in late 2017, almost 4300 people have used Renew's free online solar and battery calculator to source advice on likely bill savings and emissions reductions from the installation of solar and battery systems.

Through our Sustainable Energy for Not-For-Profits program funded by the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation, Renew worked with 20 not-for-profit organisations to undertake solar feasibility assessments for their sites. The result is that nine solar PV systems, totalling approximately 165kW of capacity, will be installed. Renew estimates that, per year, these systems will save between \$30,000 and \$45,000 on energy bills and 250 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Renew continues to provide advice to members and non-members. Renew assisted 730 members and 150 non-members throughout the year.

## Z-NET HEPBURN

In April 2019 Renew launched a best-practice plan detailing how the Hepburn Shire can reach a carbon-neutral goal in 10 years within a framework of social and environmental justice.

The Z-NET Community Transition Plan is a detailed masterplan for the shire to reach 100% renewable electricity supply, zero-net energy and zero-net emissions by 2029. The plan looks beyond stationary energy and includes agriculture, transport, land use, waste and wastewater.

The University of NSW's Practical Justice Initiative partnered with the project to bring a social justice lens to the transition plan.

Led by Renew with support from Starfish Initiatives, Little Sketches, Hepburn Shire Council, Hepburn Wind and many other local and sector partners, Hepburn Z-NET is an Australian-first replicable model that demonstrates how a local community can set targets and achieve zero-net emissions in just and equitable ways. It aims to act as an incubator, supporting locally appropriate action.

Hepburn Z-NET was awarded the 2019 Victorian Premier's Sustainability Community Award and is a finalist in national 2019 Banksia Environmental Awards.



Winner  
Premier's  
**Sustainability**  
Awards 2019

## ACCOMMODATING ROOFTOP SOLAR IN THE GRID

Australia's rapid uptake of rooftop solar is starting to reveal technical issues in the electricity grid. This is causing many households and businesses to have their grid-connected solar systems curtailed, and in some cases excluded altogether.

AEMO (the Australian Energy Market Operator) forecasts that the majority of Australian homes will have solar PV by 2040 so these issues need to be resolved in the interests of both solar and non-solar households.

Renew is leading a project bringing together technical experts, distribution network businesses, inverter manufacturers, software engineers, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and consumer advocates to recommend best-practice network and consumer-side options for dealing with these technical issues.

Renew will be reporting on the findings and recommendations in early 2020.

## SOLAR OVERSHADOWING CALCULATOR

Renew has developed an easy-to-use calculator for the Victorian government to assess the impact of shading from neighbouring buildings on solar systems.

This is set for publication online in late 2019 to assist households and businesses including those with existing solar and those considering a



new installation. Impacts are estimated for solar energy generation and also the likely increase in electricity bills.

Renew developed this calculator using our in-house solar modelling tool, Sunulator.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE MODELLING

In 2019 Renew has begun detailed modelling of an efficient, all-electric home with an electric vehicle. We have found that electric vehicles are economically attractive for many such

households, taking into account both fuel and maintenance costs over time.

As electric vehicles become cheaper to purchase, their overall economic and environmental benefits will strengthen further.

This work builds on our long history of research into fuel switching from gas to electricity. With a view to informing consumer thinking on the economics of electric vehicles, we intend to progress to larger studies covering broader ranges of household types and locations.

# Enabling Change

## SOLAR IN TIMOR LESTE

Since 2003, Renew has been working with communities in Timor Leste to provide clean, renewable lighting and electricity. In 2018/19, Renew continued to build on this work.

We secured funding to install solar power on two health clinics, three community centres and seven schools and to audit systems installed on over 100 community buildings.

Renew's Village Lighting Scheme continued its work, this year installing solar lighting systems on another 110 households, bringing the total households reached via this model to over 2100.

Learning from and building upon our experience with the Village Lighting Scheme, this year Renew supported a solar lighting pilot project that took a different approach. The 60-household pilot used an energy financing model where households pay for their solar systems over time. Implemented with a local social enterprise in the Baguia sub-district, the pilot has been a great success and Renew has secured funding to light up a further 300 to 400 households using this model.

We continue to work with our local partners to build technical skills, which creates employment opportunities, promotes self-sufficiency and helps ensure the long-term sustainability of our projects.

Thank you to all our volunteers, partners and supporters who make our work possible (see pages 24-26).



# Advocating Change

*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.*

## CLIMATE RESILIENT HOMES

A move to better-designed, zero-carbon housing has overwhelmingly positive benefits for Australian households with improved health, comfort levels, lower running costs, reduced emissions and homes more resilient to a changing climate.

Consumers, particularly the vulnerable, are currently paying the price of poor-performing homes and up to now the consumer voice has been lacking in policymaking.

To ensure the systemic change needed in the housing sector, in mid-2018 Renew partnered with the Australian Council of Social Services to build a national coalition of social, health and environment groups to advocate for healthy, affordable homes.

With support from Energy Consumers Australia, Australian Communities Foundation, Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation and individual donors we were able to employ a Sustainable Housing Advocate to lead this new campaign.

By the end of 2018, we had over 65 groups working together to call for urgent action to raise the energy performance of Australia's homes. Representing hundreds of thousands of Australians, the coalition agreed to a set of policies to call on government to commit to:



- Raising energy performance standards for new homes and major renovations
- Improving the energy performance of existing homes, including targeted measures to overcome the barriers faced by low-income households to accessing energy-performance upgrades.

We have had substantial success in a short period of time including:

- In February 2019, COAG Energy Ministers committed to lifting the energy ratings of new homes as part of the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings.
- COAG Energy Ministers also agreed to our request to develop a Trajectory for Low Energy Existing Homes, a 12-month process we are currently participating in, with the report and

recommendations to be delivered to COAG in December 2019.

- In July 2019, the Building Ministers Forum agreed to the development of enhanced energy efficiency provisions for new residential buildings in the National Construction Code 2022.
- Renew has been asked to be the consumer representative on the residential working group for the National Construction Code 2022 - the first time there has been consumer representation in the development of the code.

There is still a long way to go, but in less than a year significant steps have been taken to improve our housing stock and to reduce emissions. We have created momentum for a range of groups to advocate on energy efficiency.

# Advocating Change

## ENERGY SYSTEMS TRANSITION

AEMO (the Australian Energy Market Operator) is preparing a plan for Australia's main electricity grid, including its transition towards renewable energy.

With AEMO's latest Integrated System Plan (ISP) due to be published in early 2020, Renew is advocating that the ISP delivers concrete results and covers governance and forecasting processes.

Renew has asked AEMO to ensure that the ISP includes a 100% renewable grid scenario and that its modelling be transparent, allowing replication by other researchers.

Renew has also been participating in the process to establish a demand-response mechanism in the National Electricity Market. We have been supporting lead organisations including the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Total Environment Centre and the Australia Institute on the formal Rule Change process to introduce this mechanism, that will enable load reductions to be sold into the wholesale market, putting downward pressure on prices and reducing peak demand.

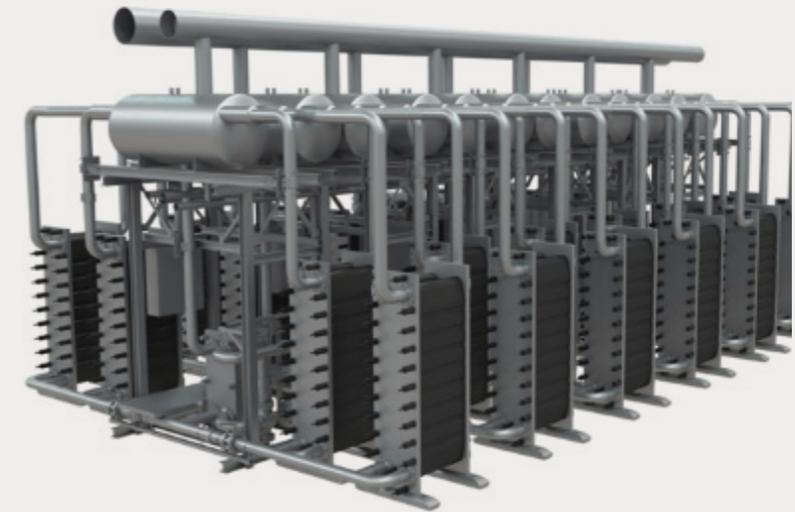
## CONSUMER-FOCUSED ENERGY MARKETS

Since 2017, Renew has been leading work by a range of organisations to improve consumer protections for products such as rooftop solar, batteries, electric vehicle chargers and other emerging services.

We have drafted a new code of conduct named the 'New Energy Tech Consumer Code', which is now awaiting authorisation by the ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission).

This code defines a minimum standard of customer service including items such as subcontracting, finance and warranties, and will provide households and businesses more information to confidently deal with salespeople and suppliers.

In addition, during 2019 Renew has been approached by state governments and energy network businesses to provide our views on the value and challenges of network tariff reform. This has enabled us to influence future tariffs in the interest of consumers.



## HYDROGEN: HELP OR HYPE?

When produced from renewable electricity, hydrogen is a renewable, emission-free fuel. By some accounts, in the not-too-distant future we'll all be using this high-energy, 'clean' fuel to run our cars, heat our homes, cook our food and power our electric appliances. But as we transition to a low-carbon energy system, how much of this posited hydrogen economy is realistic and how much is hype?

Renew launched a discussion paper to give the full picture on which uses for hydrogen make sense in a decarbonised economy. We've also represented consumers at a roundtable meeting for the National Hydrogen Strategy which is due for publication by the end of 2019.

*“For the industry bodies that ASBEC represents, the emergence of a strong consumer voice led by Renew is an immense step change in advocacy for energy-efficient homes. It has been the missing piece in the national debate.”*

Suzanne Toumbourou, Executive Officer,  
Australian Sustainable Building Environment Council



# Treasurer's Report

*In 2018/19 Renew recorded revenues of \$2,476,462, an increase of 6.5% over the previous year.*

This included strong growth in both project management revenues and donations for our successful Resilient Homes Campaign. Higher expenses associated with our investment in a new IT system resulted in a deficit for the year of \$113,156.

Membership fees were the largest contributor to revenues at \$694,650 which were broadly in line with 2017/18. Project management revenues grew 30.5% to \$631,277 driven by strong demand for our communications and project consulting services. Donations and grants also grew 22% mainly for our Climate Resilient Homes campaign, a clear indication of strong funder and public support of Renew's leadership in this space.

These positive developments were counteracted by a fall in publication revenues and increase in costs associated with the IT implementation. Publication revenues fell 16.5% in line with industry trends and for which the organisation has been planning. This declining income stream was offset by an increase in income for communications projects, indicating that our strategy is working for a shift over time in how we generate revenue.

Operating costs grew by 5.3% to \$2,589,618 primarily due to higher than forecast personnel costs - the largest single expense accounting for nearly 62% of total costs.

Additional staffing was associated with the implementation of a number of change projects including the customer relationship management system (CRM). The new CRM is expected to deliver significant long-term benefits and provide a platform for growth. Like many systems projects its implementation is more complex and is taking longer than originally planned which has led to higher than forecast costs.

Despite the deficit Renew Australia maintained sound liquidity with cash of \$653,216 at 30 June 2019. Total Equity was \$64,228 at 30 June 2019.

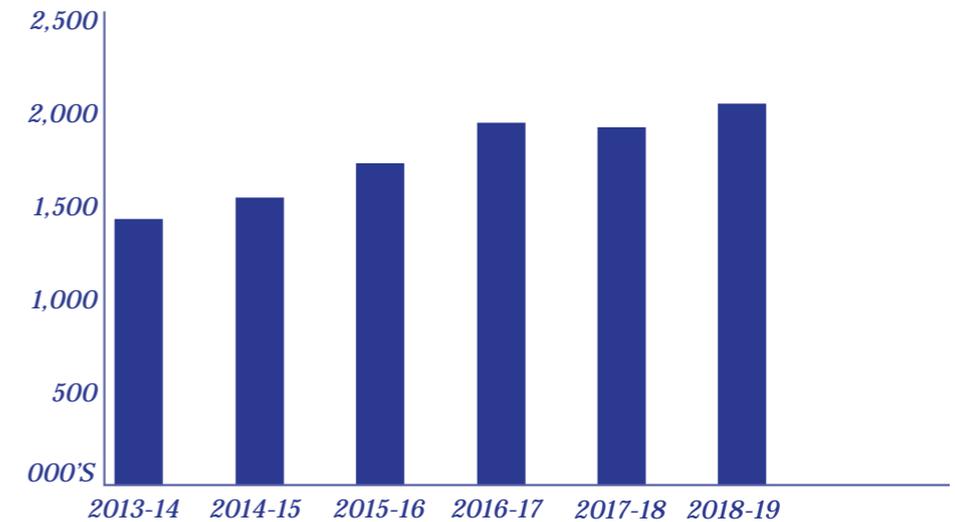
The Board is focussed in 2019/20 on improving the equity position, supporting management in growing member numbers, broadening Renew's fundraising base and continuing to build the project management pipeline.

We sincerely thank all members and donors who continue to support the vital work of Renew Australia and the outstanding work of the Renew team for their commitment and hard work. We will continue to enable and inspire people to build more sustainable homes and to advocate for improvements to housing standards to ensure all Australians can live in climate resilient homes.

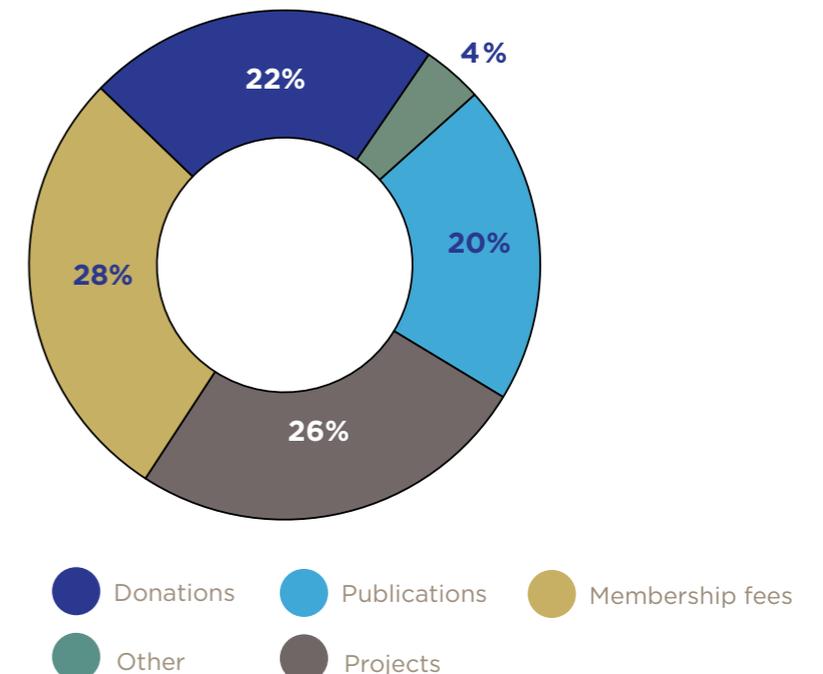


*Louisa Scott  
Treasurer*

## OPERATING REVENUE GROWTH



## SOURCES OF INCOME



# Statement of Income and Expenditure and other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC  
TRADING AS RENEW AUSTRALIA  
ABN: 57 533 056 318

		2019	2018
		\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Membership & sub fees		694,650	700,526
Project Management		631,277	483,634
Publications		552,563	603,446
Donations and grants		503,889	452,788
Sale of goods		35,868	39,876
Interest income		12,194	15,270
Other		46,021	29,919
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>2,476,462</b>	<b>2,325,459</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee benefit expense		(1,602,485)	(1,505,162)
Printing & Publishing		(214,052)	(217,668)
Project materials		(45,502)	(50,195)
Consultants & Prof. fees		(138,842)	(153,064)
Postage & freight		(143,254)	(148,504)
Marketing		(128,168)	(112,531)
Travel		(39,943)	(29,388)
Occupancy		(53,772)	(51,202)
Cost of sales		(21,013)	(35,904)
Depreciation		(29,787)	(18,044)
Other		(172,800)	(137,419)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>(2,589,618)</b>	<b>(2,459,081)</b>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(113,156)</b>	<b>(133,622)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(113,156)</b>	<b>(133,622)</b>

# Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC  
TRADING AS RENEW AUSTRALIA  
ABN: 57 533 056 318

	2019	2018
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	653,216	899,966
Trade and other receivables	158,039	143,327
Inventories	47,227	35,886
Other assets	56,803	53,557
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>915,285</b>	<b>1,132,736</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant & equipment	34,714	44,488
Intangible assets	224,120	138,737
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>258,834</b>	<b>183,225</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,174,119</b>	<b>1,315,961</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	269,201	251,685
Short-term provisions	247,400	220,167
Other liabilities	579,651	640,568
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,096,252</b>	<b>1,112,420</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Long-term Provisions	13,639	26,157
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>13,639</b>	<b>26,157</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,109,891</b>	<b>1,138,577</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>64,228</b>	<b>177,384</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Settled sum	10	10
Retained surplus	64,218	177,374
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>64,228</b>	<b>177,384</b>

# Statement of changes in equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC  
TRADING AS RENEW AUSTRALIA  
ABN: 57 533 056 318

	SETTLED SUM	RETAINED SURPLUS	TOTAL
<b>2019</b>	\$	\$	\$
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2018	10	177,374	177,384
Surplus /(deficit for the year)		(113,156)	(113,156)
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2019</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>64,218</b>	<b>64,228</b>
<b>2018</b>			
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2017	10	310,996	311,006
Surplus /(deficit for the year)		(133,622)	(133,622)
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2018</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>177,374</b>	<b>177,384</b>

# Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2019

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION INC  
TRADING AS RENEW AUSTRALIA  
ABN: 57 533 056 318

	NOTE	2019	2018
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		\$	\$
Receipts from members, customers and donors		2,529,870	2,704,797
Payments to suppliers and employee		(2,683,418)	(2,548,352)
Interest received		12,194	15,270
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(141,354)</b>	<b>171,715</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payment for plant and equipment		(1,405)	(6,909)
Payment for intangible assets		(103,991)	(117,605)
<b>Net cash used for investing activities</b>		<b>(105,396)</b>	<b>(124,514)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held</b>		<b>(246,750)</b>	<b>47,201</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>		<b>899,966</b>	<b>852,765</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>		<b>653,216</b>	<b>899,966</b>

# Major Supporters

Renew is grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year. We value every donation and strive to maximise its impact to enable, inspire and advocate for sustainable living. Though we have diverse income streams we are constrained by our available resources, so every donation counts.

We would like to thank our major supporters throughout the year including:

- Andrew McNaughton Foundation
- Australian Communities Foundation
- Bank Australia
- Energy Consumers Australia
- K & H Johnston Family Foundation
- Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation
- Mullum Trust
- Minter Ellison
- RACV

## 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 our Will or naming a charity as a beneficiary of our 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 lieu, 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:*

## Event Partners:

- 2021
- Adelaide Sustainable Building Network
- Armadale City Council
- Augusta-Margaret River Council
- Australian Electric Vehicle Association
- Australian Passive House Association
- Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions
- Baw Baw Sustainability Network
- Banyule City Council
- Bayside City Council
- Benalla Rural City Council
- Benalla Sustainable Futures Group
- Bendigo Sustainability Group
- Brimbank City Council
- Byron Shire Council
- Cambden Community Connections
- Cairns Regional Council
- CargoCycles
- Centre for Liveability Real Estate
- City of Adelaide
- City of Armadale
- City of Cockburn
- City of Darebin
- City of Fremantle
- City of Glen Eira
- City of Gosnells
- City of Melbourne
- City of Parramatta
- City of Sydney
- City of Yarra
- City of Wodonga
- CoolMOB

- Department of Environment and Energy (Fed)
- Department of Environment & Science (QLD)
- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (VIC)
- Enviroflex
- ESC Consulting
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Geelong Sustainability Group
- Green Building Institute
- Green Fabric
- Healesville CORE
- HomeBase
- Inner West Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Landcorp
- Lottery West
- Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
- Maroondah City Council
- Melbourne University Energy Transition Hub
- Mildura City Council
- Monash City Council
- Moreland City Council
- Moreland Energy Foundation
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Mt Barker District Council
- Municipality of Lane Cove
- Nillumbik Shire Council
- Northern Beaches Council
- Parramatta City Council
- Penrith City Council
- Permaculture Sydney North

- Permaculture Yarra Valley
- Port Adelaide Enfield Council
- Queanbeyan- Palerang Regional Council
- RACV
- Randwick City Council
- Renewable Energy Benalla
- Shellharbour City Council
- Silverleaf
- Solace Creations
- Solar Dwellings
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Surf Coast Council
- Sustainable Chippendale
- Sustainable House Margaret River
- Sustainable Living Tasmania
- The Cape
- The Centre for Liveability Real Estate
- The Fremantle Network
- The GreenSwing
- The Link at Ginninderry
- Tiny Footprint
- The Tiny Not for Profit
- Transition Village Wallan
- Tweed Shire Council
- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- Waverley Council
- Willoughby City Council
- Wollongong City Council
- Warrnambool Environmental Action Group
- Yankalilla District Council

## Project & Research Partners:

- Australian Council of Social Services
- Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council
- ACX Argyle
- Akin Consulting
- Australian Energy Market Operator
- Australian Energy Regulator
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency
- Ausnet Services
- Beyond Zero Emissions
- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Building Designers Association of Australia
- Building Designers Association of Victoria
- Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance
- CitiPower/Powercor
- City of Stonnington
- Clean Energy Council
- Climate Change Action Network
- Coalition for Community Energy
- Community Power Agency
- Consumer Action Law Centre
- CSIRO
- Department of Energy & Mining (SA)
- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (Vic)
- Department of Planning (NSW)
- Department of Justice (Vic)
- Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
- Energeia
- Energy Consumers Australia
- Energy Networks Association

# Thank you

- Environment Victoria
- Friends of the Earth
- Hepburn Wind
- Jemena
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- Monash University
- Moonee Valley Council
- Monanerga Consulting Services
- Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)
- Point Advisory
- Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- RMIT University
- Rural City of Wangaratta
- St Vincent de Paul
- Solar Analytics
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Synergy (WA)
- The Hub Foundation
- Total Environment Centre
- University of NSW
- Victorian Council of Social Service
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute

## Timor Leste Partners:

- Atauro Administrative Post (Timor Leste)
- Australian Ethical
- Barry's Place (Timor Leste)
- CNEFP Tibar (Timor Leste)
- Baguia sub-District Administrator (Timor Leste)
- Covalima Community Centre (Timor Leste)
- Department of Renewable Energy (Timor Leste)
- DPA Solar
- Eddy (Timor Leste)
- Friends of Lacluta

- Friends of Suai/Covalima
- Green Light Planet
- Ho Musan Ida (Timor Leste)
- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- John Tilleard
- Kovess International
- Latronics
- Mario's Place (Timor Leste)
- Mira Fonseca (Timor Leste)
- Pixelasia Productions (Timor Leste)
- Plasmatronics/Alan Hutchinson
- Roman Luan (Timor Leste)
- Rotary (Australian & Timor Leste)
- Timor Adventures (Timor Leste)
- WithOneBean & WithOneSeed

## General support

- Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network
- Hawkesbury Earth Care Centre
- Interface Australia
- The Mathews Family

## VOLUNTEERS

**A large number of people donate their time to Renew and add to its success and strengths. The following people have been instrumental in the past year:**

- Stephen Whately
- Dick Clarke
- Bryce Gatton
- Kellie Flanagan
- Cameron Munro
- Jonathan Prendergast
- All our Speed Date experts, who contribute

enormously to the success of these events around the country. Also our regular volunteers Reshma Punjabi and Nina Bishop and video production from James Stapledon and Reshma Punjabi.

- All the volunteers who helped at the Renew stalls at the many shows Renew attended through the year.
- All the volunteers who helped at houses around Australia for Sustainable House Day, in addition to Ruchita Panchal and Eshveen Kaur who helped us run the event and Monash University interns Ngoc Nguyen (Thanh) and Nora Muenzel.
- Renew's successes in Timor Leste would not be possible without the hard work of Renew volunteers: Michael O'Connell, Richard Johnston, Vaishali Haria, David Tolliday, Alan Hutchinson and Mick Harris.

## RENEW LIFE MEMBERS

**We would like to acknowledge our Life Members for their unique, invaluable and ongoing contributions to Renew.**

**Many thanks to:**

- Godfrey Davies
- Paul Fritze
- Mick Harris
- Alan Hutchinson
- Noel Jeffries
- Chris Moss
- Michael O'Connell
- Alan Pears
- Alan Strickland
- David Winterton

# Our team

## STAFF

**Harry Andrews** - International Projects Manager  
**Don Batson** - Chief Operating Officer  
**Jacinta Cleary** - Online Editor  
**Anna Cumming** - Communications Projects Manager  
**Kulja Coulston** - Sanctuary Managing Editor  
**Katy Daily** - Marketing Manager  
**Robyn Deed** - Renew Managing Editor  
**Mohit Gulati** - Advertising Manager  
**Michael Harris** - Technical Specialist  
 - Administration Officer  
**Sophie Liu** - Administration Officer  
**Dean Lombard** - Senior Energy Policy Advocate  
**Donna Luckman** - CEO  
**Anne Martinelli** - Sustainable Housing Advocate  
**Jodie Meehan** - Administration Manager  
**Damien Moyse** - Energy Projects & Policy Manager  
**Jodi Rashbrook** - Events Manager  
**Andrew Reddaway** - Energy Analyst  
**Ian Robertson** - Accountant  
**Doug Rolfe** - Branch Co-ordinator  
**Michele Ryan** - Bookkeeper  
**Sasha Shtargot** - Media and Online Content Manager  
**Lance Turner** - Technical Editor  
**Olivia Wykes** - Administration Assistant  
**Jessamie Yule** - Online and Research Assistant

## BOARD

**Mark Bytheway**  
**Grant Downie**  
**Tim Drinkall**  
**Tristy Fairfield** (Secretary)  
**Dominique La Fontaine**  
**Helen Millicer** (President)  
**Daren O’Beirne**  
**Caroline Pidcock**  
**Louisa Scott** (Treasurer)  
**Gerlinde Scholz** (Vice President)  
**Kylie Taylor**

## TRUSTEES

**Mark Bytheway**  
**Ian Court**  
**Blair Lindsay**  
**Gayle Seddon**



From left: Greens MP Adam Bandt, Renew President Helen Millicer and Wiebe Wakker, who drove his electric car 70,000km from the Netherlands to Australia to show that EVs can travel long distances,

# Our governance

- Our Constitution brings the organisation in line with current best practice. It also confirms our fundamental commitment to enable, inspire and advocate for sustainable living across Australia.
- We are governed by an independent Board of Management and managed by professional executives. More information on Board members is available at [renew.org.au/about-us/our-people/](http://renew.org.au/about-us/our-people/).
- We are audited annually by the independent accounting firm Seward Dawson, with oversight from the Financial Committee. Financials are reported in this document and available in previous Annual Reports (available on request).
- Our Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of our activities over the year and what we are doing in the year ahead. The report provides interested persons and stakeholders detailed information about Renew’s programs, activities and financial performance.
- We are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.
- We are registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria as a registered fundraiser.
- We have current deductible gift recipient status (DGR 1) with full tax concession status.
- We have a privacy policy published at [renew.org.au/privacy-policy](http://renew.org.au/privacy-policy).



**COMMUNITY AWARD**  
**VIC PREMIERS SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2019**



**CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP**  
**NSW GREEN GLOBE AWARDS 2017**



**CLIMATE CHANGE LEADERSHIP**  
**UNAA CLIMATE ACTION AWARDS 2017**

# renew.

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