



# BALLARAT RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ZERO EMISSIONS

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

(December 2021 to November 2022)

**Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.**







## Our Mission

*To protect and enhance the natural environment and increase environmental sustainability within the region by promoting and developing renewable sources of energy and significantly reducing the region's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. BREAZE aspires to facilitate, encourage and educate the wider Ballarat community towards a goal of zero emissions by 2030*

## Our History

BREAZE was formed in December 2006 after Ballarat's "Walk Against Warming" event by a group of concerned citizens who decided there was a need for a community driven organisation to take the lead for action on climate change.

In its first 3 years, BREAZE arranged bulk purchase and installations of solar hot water and rooftop solar panels for its members well before commercial suppliers were established in Ballarat.

In partnership with state and local government agencies and other environment groups BREAZE established the Smart Living Centre as a shopfront for the public to access information and assistance on sustainable use of electricity, gas, water, transport and information on local foods and preserving Ballarat's biodiversity.

BREAZE has quickly grown in membership numbers and reputation as a trusted and authoritative voice for the Ballarat community on all climate change issues. BREAZE Inc. coordinates the Smart Living Ballarat Talks program, funded by the City of Ballarat. In 2017-2021 BREAZE Inc. hosted the Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot program. In 2021 BREAZE Inc was selected by Sustainability Victoria to lead the 2021-2022 Grampians Community Power Hub. This work sits closely with the work of the BREAZE Social Solar program, which leverages public donations to assist not-for-profits access renewable energy resources.

This report covers the period between the 2021 and 2022 Annual General Meetings which was from December 2021 to November 2022 in order to align with the events, activities and achievements of the Board, contractors and volunteers during that period.

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## SECTION 1.

## AN OVERVIEW OF BREAZE

### About Us

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc. is a volunteer run, not for profit climate action group. The BREAZE Board and volunteers in 2022 delivered the following programs, events and projects, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in serving our mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the region:

1. Smart Living Ballarat – monthly lunchtime presentations/workshops for the public to gain knowledge, skills and reference contacts for sustainable living.
2. Green Drinks – a recurring social event for those interested in environmental sustainability to hear from guest presenters and share ideas.
3. World Environment Day — a Children's Writing Competition and an environmental documentary screening for members and friends.
4. Sustainable House Day – supporting a national initiative in our region.
5. Grampians Community Power Hub which ran from 1 July 2021 to June 2022
6. BREAZE Social Solar partnered with DELWP and Woodbine Inc via the New Energy Jobs Fund 6 to fund installation of solar PV on five Wimmera properties
7. BREAZE Public Fund – a registered charity with DGR status providing funds for renewable energy infrastructure for social housing and disability sector social enterprises.
8. Administrative assistance to affiliated groups committed to sustainable living: Ballarat Repair Cafe, Buninyong Boomerang Bags, Ballarat Tool Library, Buninyong Community Collective.

BREAZE undertook these activities solely through the efforts of volunteers and funding from Victorian Government, City of Ballarat, and donations.

### Board Members: 2022

The Board approves and oversees all BREAZE activities.



L-R from top

Dina Jones  
Paul Tant  
Paul Boadle  
Suzanne Nunn  
Pat Hockey  
Vany Gunaratnam  
Catherine Oakley  
Simon Reid  
Mary Debrett  
Campbell Mercer  
Sally Missing  
Sue Broadway

Not shown:

Nick Charleston

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Mary Debrett	President	
Paul Tant	Treasurer	
Pat Hockey	Secretary	Until September 2022

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Peter Boadle	Board Member	April 2021 - June 2022
Nick Charleston	Board Member	Until August 2022
Dina Jones	Secretary	September 2022 on onwards
Vany Gunaratnam	Board Member	March 2022 onwards
Campbell Mercer	Board Member	April 2022 onwards
Sally Missing	Board Member	
Sue Nunn	Board Member	
Catherine Oakley	Board Member	March 2022 onwards
Simon Reid	Board Member	

## Public Fund Committee

BREAZE has a Public Fund for tax deductible donations. As part of the regulatory conditions of having a charitable fund an oversight committee is required to ensure the donations are spent for the purpose that was advertised.

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Ian Rossiter	Chair	
Mary Debrett	BREAZE President	
Daina MacLeod	Independent member (AC Accounting Practice)	
Peter Reid	BREAZE Board	
Paul Tant	BREAZE Treasurer	

## Permanent Volunteer Roles

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Jill Clarke	Web Support	
Patrick Hockey	Membership Officer, Web Support and e-Newsletter	

BREAZE also usually draws upon its membership to volunteer to help with the projects and presentations we run during the year.

## Our Supporters

BREAZE Inc. acknowledges the following supporters who have provided us with services and financial support during the period December 2021 to November 2022:

Organisation or Individual	Support Provided
The City of Ballarat	Funding to deliver Smart Living Ballarat and World Environment Day activities.
Sustainability Victoria	Funding to host the Grampians Community Power Hub which ran from for the FY 2021/2022
Department of Environment Land Water & Planning	Funding via the New Energy Jobs Fund 6 to install Solar PV on 5 properties owned by disability provider Woodbine Inc. at Warracknabeal
CoPower	A grant of \$7,250 towards the BREAZE Social Solar Revolving Fund
Lake View Hotel	Supporting Ballarat Green Drinks

## **Structure & Management**

The organisation is managed by a flat structure consisting of the BREAZE Board and supported by contractors and volunteers recruited for specific projects and activities. The Board is not remunerated and performs on a purely volunteer basis with the common aim of taking the Ballarat community towards a zero net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) target.

BREAZE Inc., which is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), manages the BREAZE Public Fund which has Australian Taxation Office Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

BREAZE Inc. has a minority shareholding in Breaze Enterprises Pty Ltd, trading as Breaze Energy Solutions (BES) – a for-profit proprietary limited company providing renewable energy infrastructure. BREAZE initially ran bulk purchase schemes for rooftop solar electricity and hot water heating systems for its members. When it withdrew from this activity in 2010, BES took on that business.

BREAZE Inc. also supports sustainability via affiliated groups, which are covered by BREAZE's not-for-profit incorporated association status and public liability insurance cover:

- Buninyong Boomerang Bags
- Buninyong Collective
- Ballarat Repair Cafe
- Ballarat Tool Library

BREAZE is generally run by members on a volunteer basis, unless specifically appointed as contractors. However, in 2<sup>nd</sup> FY 2021-22 as lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH), delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government, BREAZE Inc. employed two staff on 12 month contracts – a full time Project Manager and a half time Communications/Administrative Officer – to manage and promote the G-CPH and assist BREAZE Inc. volunteers, who undertook the Hub's community engagement across the region.

BREAZE Inc. has contracted services from organisations and sole traders that have the required training, skills, equipment, procedures and insurances to deliver services that could not be reasonably expected to be delivered by volunteers. During 2022 a contractor has been involved in the following roles:

1. Smart Living Ballarat Program Hosting & Scheduling
2. Printing and Reproduction
3. Graphic Design
4. Event Coordination and Marketing



## President's Report 2022

In Australia, the year 2022 will be remembered by many for the terrible floods, first the east coast of Queensland and NSW, and now north western and central Victoria. While traumatising for affected communities, particularly where homes, businesses and farms have been inundated, as extreme weather events the floods are clear signals that climate change is here and that worse is to come. Globally there is a bare seven years left to get emissions reductions on the right trajectory for net zero by 2050 - the target set to keep global warming to 1.5C and our current best option for avoiding catastrophic climate change. However, there is worse news – we in Australia are facing an even more dire scenario: ['Observations to date indicate Australian warming of around 1.6 °C compared to the globe of around 1.1 °C'](#). So we need more Australians to get behind calls for closing coal fired power plants and ending gas, coal and oil exploration as soon as possible. With 114 fossil fuel projects still in the investment pipeline across the nation, and with fossil fuel subsidies continuing, there are plenty of reasons for making a lot of noise. It is of course also profoundly bewildering, given Australia's potential to be a clean energy superpower. Even as economists warn of stranded assets, market-driven short termism it seems, continues to be indulged in the face of oncoming climate catastrophe.

At the local level we are focused on doing better and BREAZE Inc. members and supporters have some significant achievements to celebrate. The City of Ballarat has developed a plan for its aspirational community-wide target of net zero emissions by 2030. This is an ambitious target and BREAZE Inc. has been a key player in both the target and the Plan via the Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat (RSAB). We look forward to collaborating with other local community groups dedicated to sustainability and climate action in working with the Council in promoting and implementing the Plan in 2023 and beyond.

BREAZE Inc. has also been lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH) 2021-22, delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. The G-CPH Project Control Group included BREAZE Inc. volunteers, Peter Boadle, Paul Duggan, and myself; Hepburn Branch partner representative, Hepburn Energy Manager, Taryn Lane; Sustainability Victoria's Regional Lead for the Grampians, John van Rooden and Jenny Dickson; and BREAZE-appointed employees, Project Manager, Sowmya Nagaraj and Communications/Admin Officer, Sam Rodgers. The G-CPH undertook community engagement across the 11 local government areas of the Grampians Region, seeking to identify potential community energy projects, which were subsequently supported via feasibility studies, energy audits and other assistance with governance and finance matters. Members of the previous Ballarat CPH Project Control Group: Ross Irving, Ian Rossiter and Peter Reid, also kindly provided expertise and advice.

Despite the constraints of the pandemic, the G-CPH engaged with over 50 community energy groups and contacted 232 community organisations identified via our networks and desktop research. The communities that stood out for their renewable energy champions were: Daylesford, where the Hepburn Shire's ZNet Plan has lifted the level of community awareness, Natimuk, St Arnaud, Pomonal, Halls Gap and Ballan. We know anecdotally that there are many other communities in the region, particularly across the Wimmera, who have pressing energy needs and would greatly benefit from being able to access renewable energy expertise. We hope a future extension of the CPH program might enable us to engage with and offer help to these communities. All up we identified and assisted a 'pipeline' of 46 projects which covered a wide range of types and capacities: from low-complexity feasibility studies for simple rooftop solar installations for local not-for-profit organisations, to contracting expert facilitator discussions on governance for a community-solar farm, to scoping the needs/possibilities of a regional community energy group wanting to establish a renewables power hub, to first stage feasibility studies and expert-facilitated community engagement sessions for community battery projects, under the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance's (CVGA) *Community Sparks* program – a first round NBI recipient – along with extensive Level 1-2 energy audits for the Grampians Health Service on five sites across three regional locations. The G-CPH pipeline's potential total capacity is estimated at 12MW. In addition to its core mission of identifying and undertaking feasibility



studies, the G-CPH also implemented six projects and assisted another four that we hope to see implemented in the near future.

The BREAZE Public Fund, to which many of you have generously donated over the year, has also continued to support the Social Solar program. Under the guidance of Chair, Ian Rossiter, and in collaboration with the Grampians Community Power Hub, the Public Fund financed the installation of a 6.5kW Solar PV system onto an assisted-accommodation unit managed by local Ballarat NDIS provider, McCallum. The Public Fund is now fund raising to install solar systems onto two similar units in 2023.

Environmentally Sustainable Design is something that BREAZE Inc. has traditionally supported for many years via Sustainable House Day – working with local sustainable homes-owners who generously opened their homes to the public – an event that moved online during Covid. This year, Board members Sally Missing, assisted by Sue Broadway and Pat Hockey established a sub-committee, chaired by Michael Poulton, CEO Committee for Ballarat, a partner in the event, to plan the 'Building Better Homes for the Future Forum'. Targeting Ballarat-based builders, architects and developers – rather than residents and prospective home owners – the Forum was jointly funded by the Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat (RSAB), the City of Ballarat, and DELWP. The timing of the event coincided with efforts by Ballarat City planners as part of a 24 member group of Victorian councils led by CASBE (Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment) to have Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) principles embedded in the State Planning Scheme. This endeavour, also supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria, is still in train, having moved into its second phase. The City of Ballarat Council recently endorsed continuing support for this initiative.

Following many months of dedicated planning by the sub-committee, the Forum was widely declared a success. An audience of 60+ builders, developers and architects assembled to hear about sustainable design and building from four speakers: renowned sustainable architect, Paul Haar, who was the founding architect of the Mullum Creek development; Bradley Hall, Director of Chatham Homes, recently responsible for an award-winning 8.2 star rated energy efficient home; Joseph van Dyk of Hygge Property, who has been responsible for several small scale sustainable developments across this region; and Natalie Robertson, Director of Development and Growth at the City of Ballarat, who has responsibility for the City's ESD initiatives. In the new year, the BREAZE sub-committee, coordinated by Sally Missing, will be organising ESD workshops for the public.

Despite the many constraints of the Covid pandemic, BREAZE also continued its delivery of the Smart Living Ballarat (SLB) talks program, online via Zoom. Under the coordination of Host, Ellen Burns, the monthly talks covered a wide range of subjects – from a Guide to Woowookarung with Jeff Rootes from Friends of the Canadian Corridor, to an inside view of one of Ballarat's first sustainable housing developments. As the weather warms, Ellen will be moving to in-person sessions for SLB, often in the form of hands-on workshops. Ballarat Green Drinks has also returned to in-person sessions, every third Thursday of the month at Lake View Hotel, with talks: 'Getting off gas' by Ian Rossiter, 'Regenerative Farming' by Campbell Mercer and 'Friends of the Canadian Corridor is 10!' by Bob Hartmann and in November, Matt Turner on The Future of Home: Sustainable, Accessible, Affordable.

During 2022, the BREAZE Inc also made submissions to the City of Ballarat on the 2022-23 Draft Budget and on the Draft Zero Emissions Ballarat Plan. This year thanks are due again to Brett McDonald and Radio 3BA, for the opportunity for BREAZE Board members to participate in a monthly talks slot on *Ballarat Today*, on the fourth Friday of the month – topics covered included Regenerative Farming, Ironbark Sustainability's Snapshot Tool, Market Forces and Climate Change, and Energy Efficient Homes. Other activities include: collaboration on two climate rallies with XR and other climate action groups, a Candidates Climate Forum for the May federal election, and another planned for the Victorian state election in November. BREAZE Board members have also run information stalls and/or presentations at various events: the Buninyong Sustainability Festival, Ballarat Central Library's From Garden to Kitchen, and the Caring for Nature Expo at the Earth Ed Centre in Mt Clear.

The renewed importance placed on the clean energy transition following this year's federal election is a long overdue but extremely welcome development. We hope that the Albanese Government's *Rewiring the Nation* strategy will see a rapid reduction in GHG emissions. We all know however, that it won't be easy. Thank you for your membership and support.

All the best



Mary Debrett

President, November 2022



## Treasurer's Report

This report covers the year to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. During that period, BREAZE is showing a \$4,116 surplus compared to a prior year loss of \$23,724. As explained in last year's report, that loss was largely driven by the treatment of accounting standards which meant that we had to recognise income intended for spend in the 2020/21 year in the previous year. The effect of that has now 'worked through', and BREAZE's accounts for 2021/22 reflect what I would consider is a more 'normal' result for the organisation.



Paul Tant

Area/Project	2020/21 result	2021/22 result	Total
Grampians Renewable Energy	(\$9,880)	\$0	(\$9,880)
Social Solar by BREAZE	(\$9,826)	\$377	(\$9,449)
Affiliated Groups	(\$313)	\$6,857	\$6,544
New Energy Jobs Fund	\$1,761	\$164	\$11,925
Public Fund	\$3,195	(\$4,454)	(\$1,259)
BREAZE 'Core'	(\$6,508)	(\$981)	(\$7,489)
Grampians CPH	(\$2,153)	\$2,153	\$0
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>(\$23,724)</b>	<b>\$4,116</b>	<b>(\$19,608)</b>

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, BREAZE had net assets of \$128,704, an increase since 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 wholly attributable to the \$4,116 surplus for the year in the table above. The net assets were mainly held in the form of bank balances of \$326,479. Offsetting these assets were liabilities of \$223,815, principally a liability of \$186,572 relating to grant funding received in advance for the Grampians Community Power Hub (Grampians CPH) project. There were also some employee related liabilities in the balance sheet at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, following our employment of two staff who were engaged to work on the Grampians CPH project.

BREAZE had total revenue for the 2021/22 financial year of \$396,2016, an income level which, following changes to the regulations, now has us classified as a 'small charity' (under the old bandings we would still be a 'medium sized charity') according to the classification set by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ('ACNC'). As noted last year, if we strip out the financial effects of grant funding for specific projects and affiliated groups we continued to have a smaller 'core' of organisational costs not covered by grant funding, which it's the board's task to ensure is covered by our sources of 'free income' (membership fees, royalties etc).

We continue to budget for a broadly 'break even' position in this 'BREAZE core' area. It continues to be the case however that BREAZE as an organisation manages a lot of activity with the help of a number of dedicated volunteers who put in significant hours; we are always grateful therefore for any donations that we receive from the public and corporates which help us to cover the ever-increasing costs of surviving as a community-based not-for-profit organisations. These costs consist primarily of insurance expenses, the expense of having our financial statements subjected to an external independent review, and increasingly IT expenses. I should also note here that following those changes to the charity size bandings referred to above, our financial statements are not legally required to be subject to independent review or audit; however the board decided that an independent review would still be performed, in order to provide confidence in the transparency and governance of the organisation.

**Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.**

ABN 35 704 902 844

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2022</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2021</b> <b>\$</b>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Affiliated Group Activities		18,523	13,845
Donations - Public Fund		2,899	3,186
Donations - Other		2,884	1,943
Grants - Community Power Hub		227,678	-
Grants - Grampians Renewable Energy		115,278	334,722
Grants - New Energy Jobs Fund		17,300	75,000
Grants - Other		5,030	10,702
Interest received		306	296
Member subscriptions		2,139	1,591
Other income		4,169	3,149
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>396,206</b>	<b>444,434</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration		7,839	8,992
Affiliated Group Activities		14,026	16,365
Events		4,841	10,702
Grampians Renewable Energy		115,278	344,603
New Energy Jobs Fund		17,136	75,239
Community Power Hub -project costs		137,749	2,153
Community Power Hub - staff costs		87,857	-
Other Project expenses		-	10,104
Public Fund		7,364	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>392,090</b>	<b>468,158</b>
<b>Profit/(loss) before income tax</b>		<b>4,116</b>	<b>(23,724)</b>
Income tax expense	2(a)	-	-
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>4,116</b>	<b>(23,724)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income, net of income tax</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>4,116</b>	<b>(23,724)</b>

**Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions Inc.**

ABN 35 704 902 844

**Statement of Financial Position****As At 30 June 2022**

		2022	2021
	Note	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	326,479	221,486
Trade and other receivables	4	24,810	22,724
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>351,289</b>	<b>244,210</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Other financial assets	5	1,230	1,230
Loans and advances	6	-	4,250
Property, plant and equipment	7	-	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,230</b>	<b>5,480</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>352,519</b>	<b>249,690</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	37,243	9,824
Other financial liabilities	9	186,572	115,278
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>223,815</b>	<b>125,102</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>128,704</b>	<b>124,588</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		128,704	124,588
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>128,704</b>	<b>124,588</b>

**Financial Statements**

The financial statements reproduced above are only extracts from BREAZE's audited 2021/22 financial statements and, as such, can't be treated as full audited financial statements. Note references shown are those to notes in the audited financial statements which are not reproduced here. Full copies of the audited financial statements can be found at [BREAZE Inc. 2022- Final Signed Financial Statements.pdf](#) or via BREAZE's page on the ACNC website, [Ballarat Renewable Energy And Zero Emissions Inc. | ACNC](#).

## Smart Living Ballarat Program

In partnership with the City of Ballarat, BREAZE has delivered monthly Smart Living Ballarat (SLB) presentations and workshops for the general public. The sessions are designed to be practical, offering readily achievable solutions for people living in the Ballarat region.

Much of 2022's events were again delivered online via Facebook and Zoom.

This year's ZOOM sessions nevertheless attracted good audiences across the year, providing an opportunity for BREAZE members and friends to meet like-minded locals.



- February 16 - Your Guide to Sustainable Transport - Ben Lever Public Transport User Association
- March 16 - Cloth Nappies and Reusable Sanitary Products
- April 20 - Foraging and Growing Mushrooms
- May 18 - Suburban Housing Developments and Climate change
- June 15 - Magic of Trees, Colleen Filippa, Fifteen Trees
- July 20 - Smarter ways to Stay Warm
- August 17 - Ballarat Net Zero City by 2030
- September 21 - Growing Vegetables Successfully - John 'Ditchy' Ditchburn
- October 19 - A Conversation about Sustainable Development in Ballarat
- November 16 - How to Make Kombucha Pickles
- December 21 - How to make Comfrey Balm - Lidwine Oliver

Our thanks go to:

- City of Ballarat for funding to cover coordination, promotion and online account and presenters' costs.
- Our contractors Ellen Burns and Sam Rodgers for their excellent work in securing a diverse range of presenters, marketing and promoting the events and event hosting.
- Our volunteers and coordinators: Sally Missing and Pat Hockey

## Sustainable House Day 2022



In 2022, Sustainable House Day, an annual event run by Renew, was again online. Owners of sustainable houses, with assistance from Renew, produced videos to which visitors who registered were given access during September. BREAZE promoted the 2022 event via its website, Facebook, a Smart Living Ballarat talk on sustainable design principles – which was also featured in articles in The Courier and The Ballarat Times.



## World Environment Day 5 June 2022 – Children’s Writing Competition

With schools back to classroom teaching, the 2022 World Environment Day BREAZE Children’s Writing Competition drew 105 entries.



This year the theme of [World Environment Day](#) (5 June), was *Only one earth*. Children from grades 5 & 6 in primary schools across greater Ballarat took up BREAZE's challenge, their entries addressing the statement: 'What I can do to help the environment'.

A panel of four BREAZE members assessed the entries and selected the following winners, with special mention certificates and prizes allocated to students whose work also shone.

The Competition awards ceremony also returned in 2022, back at the Ballarat Central Library, with City of Ballarat Mayor, Cr. Daniel Moloney officiating. All winners and special mentions were awarded with certificates and book vouchers.

The competition was reported in *The Courier* and *The Ballarat Times*.

### Overall Competition Winner:

Otway Kelsall – Dana St PS

### School winning Entries

- Dana St Primary School : Otway Kelsall
- Newington Primary School: Holly McDonald
- Phoenix Primary School: Ayden Webb

### Special Mentions

- Niamh Rough - Dana St PS
- Harry Fellows - Dana St PS
- Astrid Buchanan - Dana St PS
- Mae Reid - Dana St PS
- Claire Gillett - Dana St PS
- Pippa Martin - Dana St PS
- Hugo Rawlins - Newington PS
- Esther Cutts - Newington PS
- Jayden Troy - Newington PS
- Eloise Lockwood - Newington PS
- Leni Romein - St Alipius PS





## Green Drinks

Green Drinks is an event held in towns throughout the world. People regularly get together to hear talks from citizens, NGOs, academia, government and business. A non-partisan, networking opportunity, Green Drinks offers a forum for discussions relating to sustainability and the environment. BREAZE Inc. hosts Ballarat Green Drinks, which moved back to face to face mode in June 2022 at Lake View Hotel. Many thanks to our presenters, for generously sharing their knowledge and experience.



The Future of Home: Sustainable, Accessible, Affordable



Matt Turner  
Enduring Domain Architecture  
17 November, 6:30-8pm  
Lake View Hotel,  
Wendouree Pde  
Join us for dinner.



**Programme** - every third Thursday from 6:30-8:00pm.

**June:** Liz Boulton - *Destination Safe Earth*

**August:** Ian Rossiter - *Getting off Gas*

**September:** Campbell Mercer - *Regenerative Agriculture*

**October:** Bob Hartmann - *Friends of the Canadian Corridor turns 10!*

**November:** Matt Turner - *The Future of Home: Sustainable, Accessible, Affordable*

## Repair Café Ballarat



This was a successful year for the Ballarat Repair Café. We transitioned to a semi-post COVID environment, which allowed for regular monthly repair sessions but did not permit visitors to sit with repairers to learn about repairing and maintaining their items. In the 11 sessions held across the year, over 225 items were presented with approximately 160 repaired or advice on repair provided. Approximately 340kg was saved from landfill.

While there has been a decrease in the total number of volunteers attending sessions, we have strengthened the core group of experienced and reliable repairers and they have continued to form a strong and supportive team, sharing knowledge and skills as well as friendship amongst each other. We identified a need for more volunteers for running the 'café' side of sessions, and volunteers with communications, social media and marketing skills. Recruitment for these volunteers will be a goal in 2023.

The finances of the Repair Café were very strong in 2022. In addition to visitor donations at each session totalling nearly \$1,000 and donations from local community organisations contributing another \$1,000, we also received an unsolicited commitment of \$2,000 per year for 3 years from the Victorian Branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation. Some of these funds have been put towards repairer training as well as a refresh of our branding and display materials, which will be available in early 2023.

The Repair Café remains engaged in our local community's sustainable activities including the Buninyong Sustainability Expo and engagement in some City of Ballarat sustainable discussions and working groups.

## Buninyong Boomerang Bags



Buninyong Boomerang Bags is part of a network of local volunteers who work independently to reduce waste in their communities. Donated fabrics diverted from landfills are sewn by volunteers into beautiful and unique re-useable bags. By increasing awareness of the plastic bag issue it assisted in the banning of plastic bags.

Due to COVID 19 the regular meetings and bag making have been suspended. Many people continued to make bags at home to

meet specific demand. Boomerang Bags will look at restarting when the COVID threat is over.

## Buninyong Community Collective

The Buninyong Community Collective aimed to provide the Buninyong community with minimal packaging, quality local and organic dry foods, and fresh home produce. Local goods in the future. During 2022 the Buninyong Community Collective managed to operate on a restricted basis but due to the drop off in demand the decision was made to close in July, until such time as the demand arises again.



## Ballarat Tool Library

The Ballarat Tool Library is a volunteer-led initiative providing access to the tools— saving householders money from having to buy new tools that may only be used once or twice. The BTL library is always growing. Helping the community share resources helps us work towards a sustainable future.



BTL has now moved into a new site (across the hallway) at Barkly Square. The new site is solely ours to use and set up as we choose. This has involved a new lease at only \$575 annual increase including adding the Repair Cafe's activity to our lease agreement. Barkly Square has proved to be a valuable community hub of many like-minded groups. Its location has plenty of parking and easy access for tool collection. We foresee this being our home for the next couple of years at least. We have our second birthday late Jan/early Feb which we will celebrate by showcasing our new space.

We now have: 933 items in our catalogue for members to borrow; loaned over 2698 items since opening Jan 2021; have a strong core of approximately 26 active volunteers, but are looking for more volunteers as we get busier. As at 31 December 2022 our paid membership total is 232, with a "3 in 4" renewal being made. This is with very little administrative effort from our volunteers.

After receiving the Ballarat Foundation grant to commence workshops, we've found it helped us setup and we now plan to continue with monthly workshops.

BTL has received a number grants during the year: We acquitted our Ballarat Foundation Grant; received a City of Ballarat grant for almost \$10,000; received \$1000 from BGT to assist our fit-out; and applied to Buninyong Community Bank \$500 for volunteers.

Applying for some fundraising opportunities such as Grill'd, Bunnings sausage sizzle, etc. We are currently positioned in the IGA community rewards for the month of February

## SECTION 5. BREAZE PUBLIC FUND & SOCIAL SOLAR



The BREAZE Inc. Public Fund is a special fund for private charitable donations. It is administered by the Public Fund Committee which oversees collection and makes recommendation to the BREAZE Inc. Board as to where the collected money can be distributed. The Public Fund generally uses the privately donated money to leverage larger grants from government, business and other charitable bodies. Currently we only have one charitable project which is the Social Solar by BREAZE Project described below.

Donations from the public are collected and stored in the BREAZE Public Fund Account. The BREAZE Public Fund is a public fund listed on the register of environmental organisations under item 6.1.1 of subsection 30-55(1) of the income tax assessment act 1997. It is established and maintained to support the environmental purposes of the Association. It is registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) under Australian Taxation Office rules. BREAZE also applies for grants from government, business and charitable bodies. Grants are kept in a separate account, and the Public Fund Committee ensures grant funds are spent as specified by the conditions of the grant.

### Public Fund Committee Chair's Report

#### Summary

The Public Fund Committee has met three times during the 2021/22 financial year and funded a 6kW rooftop PV system on the McCallum Disability Services special needs residential facility in Lucas Ballarat at a cost of \$8,100. The Committee has prepared an application to Cooperative Power for a grant of \$10,000 to contribute to another two 6kW installations on similar facilities currently under construction as potential 2022/23 projects.

#### Background

The BREAZE Public Fund operates as a registered charity and operates under the protocols determined by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) and the Federal Environment Department's Registered Environmental Organisations. The PF Committee appointed by the BREAZE Board and approved by the Federal Environment Department is: Ian Rossiter (Chair), Daina McLeod, Peter Reid, Mary Debrett, Paul Tant

The "Social Solar" fundraising initiative implemented by the PF Committee has in the past attracted public donations and grants to fund PV systems on social housing, opportunity shop and institutional facilities of not-for-profit agencies providing disability services.

In 2021, with funding from the Victorian Government's Grampians Renewable Energy Initiative and a Bank Australia Grant, BREAZE was able to facilitate 108 rooftop PV installations on social housing in the region without needing to draw on the Public Fund account. As more than \$12,000 funds have been amassed over the two previous financial years, it was important to the PF Committee that they be utilised in 2021/2022 to ensure returns to the ACNC and Federal Environment Department demonstrated appropriate use of donations in a reasonable timeframe.

#### 2021/2022 Activities

The Public Fund Committee met in November 2021 to determine a suitable project and agreed to approach McCallum Disability Services with the offer to fund a rooftop system for one or more of their special needs accommodation facilities. McCallum identified 3 potential residential facilities in Lucas, one completed (5 Beaston Way) and two others under construction expecting to be completed early in 2022/23. McCallum sourced quotes for each of the properties from 3

solar supplier/ installer contractors, which were forwarded to the Grampians Community Power Hub Project Manager Sowmya Nagaraj for evaluation. All 3 properties have the same floorplan, which allowed Sowmya to evaluate the proposed size of the systems and the attributes of the panels and inverters specified.

The PF Committee met in April to consider the quotes and sought input from Matt Vallance McCallum's Executive Manager Infrastructure and Business Development. The Committee resolved to fund the lowest conforming quotation (\$8,100) for the Beaston Way residential facility and paid the contractor Sunrise Innovations the 10% deposit to ensure the solar system was ordered. The installation was completed in late May and the balance of the project cost was paid to McCallum Disability Services on receipt of confirmation of installation.

Matt Vallance has advised that the benefits of the project are:

1. Six residents with significant intellectual disability reside in the home.
2. Utility costs within the home are passed on residents.
3. By lowering utility costs the residents will be able to divert their funds to better cover their daily living expenses and services.

The Committee was made aware at that meeting that Cooperative Power was intending to release applications for grants of up to \$10,000 for renewable energy projects being delivered by member organisations. As BREAZE Inc. is a member, the PF Committee prepared an application for \$16,200 project comprising the two additional rooftop systems for McCallum's other 2 Lucas facilities under construction. It is proposed that these be funded:

BREAZE Public Fund	\$4,000
McCallum Disability	\$2,200 (plus any price escalations)
CoPower Grant	<u>\$10,000</u>
	<b>\$16,200</b>

The Cooperative Power grants were to be allocated by customers voting on the submitted projects. The Public Fund Committee met again in June to ratify the application and monitor progress on the McCallum project.

### **Social Solar Revolving Fund**

With the finalization of the Grampians Community Power Hub the Project Control Group advised that \$3K of uncommitted Sustainability Victoria funding might be allocated to establish a revolving fund for community energy projects with BREAZE the custodian. The Public Fund Committee discussed the proposal at its June meeting and made the following recommendations to the BREAZE Board, which were subsequently accepted:

1. Public Fund Account would not be the most appropriate account for a revolving fund as BREAZE already had established the Social Solar Account for this purpose, following the undertaking of Ballarat Regional Industries to make interest free loan repayments on the 30kW rooftop installation provided through BREAZE's crowd funding.
2. Investigate how much is in the Social Solar Account and projected payments from BRI
3. See if the Board would like the Public Fund Committee to investigate and make recommendations on potential community energy projects that would generate repayments and keep the revolving fund active.
4. Await the outcome of SV consideration of the surplus \$3K.
5. Consider projects such as PV systems on Salvation Army Ballarat social housing, conversion from gas to electricity for other social housing in our region or the installation of PV systems and electrification of appliances for Woodbine Disability Services as examples.



Under such an arrangement, the revolving fund would finance these renewable energy (and energy saving) upgrades and have the project cost repaid over time to keep topping up the revolving fund. .



Public Fund Chair, Ian Rossiter, 13 July 2022



**Postscript:** BREAZE Inc's application to CoPower was unsuccessful but the BREAZE Social Solar Revolving Fund did later receive a CoPower grant of \$7,250. Many thanks CoPower!

## Past Public Fund Activities

Year	Recipient	Installation
2016	Ballarat Regional Industries – a not for profit providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities ( <a href="https://www.bri.org.au/">https://www.bri.org.au/</a> ).	30kW Solar PV installation on Walker Street packing plant.
2017	Uniting Housing – a not-for-profit providing social housing ( <a href="https://unitinghousing.org.au/">https://unitinghousing.org.au/</a> ).	18kW of Solar PV on 6 properties.
2018	McCallum Disability Services – a not-for-profit providing a range of services for people with a disability ( <a href="https://www.mccallum.org.au/">https://www.mccallum.org.au/</a> ) and Uniting Housing – a not-for-profit providing social housing ( <a href="https://unitinghousing.org.au/">https://unitinghousing.org.au/</a> ).	6kW on 2 properties
2019	Uniting Church's Howitt St Opportunity Shop – this enterprise supports Uniting Housing and McCallum Disability Services – a not-for-profit providing a range of services for people with a disability ( <a href="https://www.mccallum.org.au/">https://www.mccallum.org.au/</a> )	10kW PV Installation An additional 3 kW of Solar Panels
2020-21	Funds rolled over to 2021-22 for solar PV installation on the new cottages of the retirement village operated by the Old Colonists' Association	

## Social Solar by BREAZE



Social Solar by BREAZE uses donations and grants to supply solar panels and/or solar hot water to not-for-profit community organisations. This results in more renewable energy in our region, reduced emissions and economic social justice, which is exactly what we stand for.

BREAZE's One Dollar for One Watt Program has installed solar panels on many social housing projects. It uses the slogan: For every \$1 donated, one Watt of power will be put onto social housing. Social or affordable housing is rental accommodation provided by not-for-profit organisations. Most of the money raised is from small donations from BREAZE members and other interested people.

*Left - Social Solar installation at McCallum, Beaston Way*



## Grampians Community Power Hub

BREAZE Inc. continued as lead partner in the Grampians Community Power Hub (G-CPH) until July 21, 2022. The Community Power Hub program (FY 2021-22) was delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government. The G-CPH contacted 232 community organisations and engaged with 50+ community energy groups.

The 46 projects we identified and worked on covered a wide range:

from low-complexity feasibility studies for simple rooftop solar installations for community organisations, to contracting expert facilitator discussions on governance for a community-solar farm, to scoping the needs/possibilities of a regional community energy group seeking to establish a renewables power hub, to first stage feasibility studies and expert-facilitated community engagement sessions for community battery trials, along with extensive Level 1-2 energy audits for the Grampians Health Service – five sites across three regional locations.



Above R: BREAZE Inc's Peter Reid talking about community batteries at Pomonal, Ararat

The final pipeline's total potential capacity, estimated at 12MW, greatly exceeded initial expectations. This achievement is largely due to: the hard work of our staff, the experience and knowledge of our Hepburn Branch partner, the efficiency of the Project Control Group (PCG), dedication of our BREAZE volunteers who committed a \$242,200 in-kind contribution, the enthusiasm and dedication of our community partners, and the contributions of those who participated in the Roundtable Advisory Group.



One of the flow-on projects from the G-CPH is the installation of 58kW of rooftop solar across five properties owned and operated by Woodbine Inc., a Disability Services provider in Warracknabeal, Yarriambiack. The focus of a feasibility study undertaken by the Ballarat Community Power Hub pilot back in 2019, but shelved due to capacity issues, the G-CPH revisited the project in 2022. Subsequent network changes led to a successful application to the New Energy Jobs Fund Round 6 – a grant of \$44,700, topped up by \$27,000 from Woodbine Inc.,

\$10,000 cash from BREAZE Social Solar and in-kind contribution of \$7,700 from BREAZE volunteers who will co-administer the project with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), with DELWP now restructured. Above: L-R: Bernie O'Connor, CEO, Woodbine Inc with G-CPH BREAZE volunteer, Paul Duggan in Warracknabeal.



## Building Better Homes Forum

The Building Better Homes Forum (BBH) was conceived as an opportunity to improve the quality of volume building in Ballarat by highlighting the values and benefits of energy efficiency and sustainability. The objective was to motivate the housing sector, in particular volume builders, with practical strategies to improve thermal efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of new builds. The Forum Planning Committee consisted of BREAZE board members, Sally Missing (Coordinator), Sue Broadway, Vany Gunaratnam and Pat Hockey and Committee for Ballarat CEO, Michael Poulton (Chair).



*Above: Paul Haar addresses building industry insiders at the BBH forum*

The BBH forum took the form of a buffet dinner, with multi-award winning architect, Paul Haar, as keynote speaker. Renowned for his green building principles and the Mullum Creek Development, Paul talked about the journey of that project including some of the challenges. He spoke about some of the practical changes that could be made in selecting materials to reduce their environmental impact.

Other speakers included: Bradley Hall, Group Managing Director Chatham Homes, who talked about the challenges of building an 8.2 star home designed for volume builders; and Joseph van Dyk, Director Hygge Property, who discussed how the Nightingale apartments project gave consideration to creating a community rather than just a home – by incorporating a café, shared garden and laundry; and lastly Natalie Robertson, Director of Development and Growth, City of Ballarat, who discussed the Ecologically Sustainable Design special planning amendment being driven by Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) in partnership with other councils, the importance of embedding good design and planning across council policies and the other council initiatives to improve the sustainability of housing and help the community achieve net zero carbon emissions. Approximately 60 people attended.



*Above: Natalie Robertson, City of Ballarat, explains Council's participation in the Elevating ESD Project*

The Building Better Homes Forum was a partnership between BREAZE Inc., the Committee for Ballarat and the City of Ballarat, with financial support from the Regional Sustainability Alliance Ballarat, (RSAB), the City of Ballarat and DELWP. BREAZE thanks all partners and speakers for their participation and support. Two additional community forums are planned for 2023.



## MEDIA ACTIVITY

BREAZE pursued its community information role with generation of e-Newsletters promoting monthly events, through social media on Facebook and Twitter, and via media reports as below:

January 28, 2022 - November 25, 2022 - Radio 3BA BREAZE Board Members talk-slot - with Brett McDonald on *Ballarat Today* - 4th Friday of the month, 10:15 am. Many thanks to Brett & Radio 3BA

March 15, 2022: *Microgrids* - Mary Debrett spoke about upcoming G-CPH Microgrids webinar with Steve Martin on ABC Ballarat.

March 30, 2022: *Bag body looks to bounce back* - Tim Bottams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/bag-body-looks-to-bounce-back/>

April 27, 2022: *Bring garden tools back to life* - Tim Bottams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/bring-garden-tools-back-to-life/>

May 1, 2022: *Ballarat candidates debate climate at election forum*- Alison Newman

[https://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Talk:Ballarat\\_candidates\\_debate\\_climate\\_at\\_election\\_forum](https://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Talk:Ballarat_candidates_debate_climate_at_election_forum)

May 2, 2022: *Federal election 2022: Ballarat candidates face the public in first forum; climate rally stops traffic* - Alex Ford

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7719586/candidates-face-the-public-in-first-forum-climate-rally-stops-traffic/>

May 14, 2022: Opinion: *Why climate is central to this federal election* - Mary Debrett

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7736944/is-climate-central-to-everything-this-federal-election/>

June 8, 2022: *Passion shown in writing competition* - Nieve Walton

*The Courier*, page 2 - Digital facsimile edition

June 17 2022: *Kids care for the planet* - Edwina Williams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/breaze-writing-comp/>

July 29, 2022: *Community Power Hub switching off* - Edwina Williams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/grampians-community-power-hub/>

August 9, 2022: *Shelves cleared at food collective* - Tim

Bottams <https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/shelves-cleared-at-food-collective/>

August 22, 2022 - *Green groups lead talks at library*

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/green-groups-lead-talks-at-library/>

September 7, 2022 - *Expo putting nature on show* - Tim Bottams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/living/expo-putting-nature-on-show/>

September 27, 2022: *Building a sustainable future* - Edwina Williams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/building-better-homes-breaze/>

November 11, 2022: *Climate focus to candidate forum* - Edwina Williams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/goldenplains/news/climate-focus-to-candidate-forum/>

November 15, 2022: 2022 Victorian election: *Ballarat candidates forum at BREAZE* - Gabrielle Hobson

<https://www.thecourier.com.au/story/7981324/no-photos-please-were-candidates/>

November 28, 2022: BREAZE comment in *Mars rolls out bio-degradable wrappers* - Samantha Hogan, Win TV, Ballarat.

December 17, 2022: *Smart Living session on soothing balm* - Edwina Williams

<https://timesnewsgroup.com.au/ballarat/news/smart-living-session-a-soothing-balm/>

## Formal Representations

**During the year BREAZE filed the following reports/submissions:**

- Submission to City of Ballarat Draft Budget November 21 2022
- Submission to EPA: Draft guideline for managing greenhouse gas emissions for business
- Submission to the City of Ballarat August 28 2022 on Draft Zero Emissions Ballarat 2030 Plan
- Submission to City of Ballarat, October 26, Feedback on Final Zero Emissions Ballarat 2030 Plan



BREAZE Inc. thanks all those Ballarat organisations, businesses and individuals who have contributed to BREAZE, and to the **One Dollar One Watt** campaign which feeds our **Social Solar** program.

**One Dollar One Watt** is a great opportunity for those looking to help the environment AND the community. By contributing to this initiative managed by the BREAZE Inc. Public Fund, donors can claim on their tax returns since BREAZE is registered with the Australian Charities Commission and has Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

Your donation will help a local not-for-profit organisation reduce its greenhouse gas emissions plus save dollars on its overheads and generate a return for its unused power. This is a *win win* that

enables organisations to plough those savings back into their charity, while also helping the climate. Donate here: <https://www.givenow.com.au/onedollarforonewatt>

## Find out more about BREAZE

<http://www.breaze.org.au>

<https://www.facebook.com/breaze.org.au/>

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Become a member, volunteer and join the fight against climate change.

