



## **Totally Renewable Phillip Island Annual Report to the Community 17 11 23**

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) was formed in 2018 at a public meeting in Cowes, the goal for Phillip Island to be powered by renewable energy by 2030, remains strong & more urgent than ever.

In 2022 with declining numbers of volunteers and the seed funding from Bass Coast Shire Council to finish in June 2023 some new strategies were needed. We commissioned an external evaluation of the group, by a tender process. Ref 'TRPI Evaluation'/Anthony Boxshall, Science into Action 28/10/2022.

Using the findings from the evaluation we developed a strategy to retire a few of the Working Groups and refocus on the area we knew the community were highly engaged with, and that is renewable energy, battery storage & energy sharing. We have retained an interest in Carbon Farming & Regenerative Farming through Anne & Bob Davie's work on the farm at Bimbadeen and have a link with Landcare to support the Island Bush Care project which offers tree plantings and voluntary carbon offsets from tree plantings across the Island.

### **Focus on Renewable Energy & Partnerships**

- In partnership with Rhyll Community Association, we ran an EV & Solar community event at the January Twilight Market.
- In partnership with Council & Landcare we participated in the Sustainability Festival organising a display of EVs, with their owners.
- We were very disappointed to have to notify the 100 Households who had signed up to be part of the Tariff Trail for the Community Battery, that the project could not proceed due to the inability to find a retailer. However, it was this work which gave us the insight to the strong community interest in renewable energy, battery storage & energy sharing.
- In partnership with MONDO, we supported the launch of the PICES Battery. We worked with Cowes Primary School who developed the artwork for the promotional material for the PICES launch.
- In partnership with Phillip Island Community Adult Learning (PICAL) TRPI ran 2 workshops to 'Electrify Everything' & 'Solar for Households'. We

also facilitated the running of a 6-week course at PICAL on Renewable Energy.

- We were delighted this year to welcome the Phillip Island Community Orchard as a TRPI Partner Organisation.
- In partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council TRPI supported the application by MONDO for grant funding under the State Government 100 Neighbourhood Battery project, for pole top or ground mounted batteries on the Low Voltage Network on Phillip Island. The location of the batteries being determined based on providing the greatest community benefit and delivering reduced energy costs. Thank you to the TRPI Partners who provided letters of support for this application.

### **Future direction**

In the first quarter of 2024 TRPI will work with MONDO to undertake a Planning /Visioning Workshop and invite big energy users to develop an Island plan for the next steps in battery storage, increased solar production & energy sharing, towards the totally renewable energy target of 2030.

In 2024 we plan to reactivate the volunteer base, update our communications, and develop information sharing, & project ideas on improving Home Energy Efficiency. We will look for Partners in this work.

We plan to work with Solar Vic, PICAL & Council to develop an Energy Mentor program which will upskill local community members to be able to assist others with applications for household solar; and implement home energy efficiency measures, particularly for low-income households.

We will continue with bimonthly meetings with our Partner Organisations to share knowledge & understand what actions others are undertaking to reduce carbon emissions and develop sustainable practices for ourselves & our Phillip Island community.

We want to talk more to our young people, and will include a regular update from Joey Thompson, a secondary school student who coordinates the School Strike movement in Bass Coast.

TRPI Core Group will reconvene in February 2024, emails can be redirected for any urgent matters.

*Mary Whelan, on behalf of TRPI Core Group, 17/ 11/2023.*