



RAW Energy update – March 2016

A message from the RAW Energy team

We have had a very busy month at RAW Energy. Firstly, we were invited to meet with Wodonga Mayor Anna Speedie who is very supportive of what we are doing and trying to achieve.

Michelle Wilkinson, her team at Wodonga Council and some great RAW Energy connections worked very hard on submitting the application to the Victorian Government's New Energy Jobs Fund. If successful, this would fund a feasibility study into a large scale solar project. We find out in June if it has been successful. We do know that there was a lot of interest for this funding from other groups.

We also know that we can't put all our eggs in one basket (Easter pun not intended), and we need to work on getting some other projects up and running. One, to gain exposure, two, to gain support and three, to build on our team.

So, we would like to hold a meeting in April, either in Albury or Wodonga. We would like to hear from those of you who are keen to pursue another smaller scale project that would benefit the community. We are not sure of the best time to meet as some of you are at work. **So please let us know what days or what time would suit you best by simply emailing us.** If you are interested or have some ideas you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you. We will then work out the most convenient time and place for the next meeting sometime in April.

Good news from Wodonga Council!

Wodonga Council has made the decision to move their \$17 million in investments away from coal, oil, and gas. This divestment decision means they join Albury Council and a swathe of other local government organisations in actively avoiding investing with banks that fund fossil fuel companies. <http://350.org.au/news/wodonga-council-says-goodbye-to-fossil-fuel-investments/>

Read this article in the Border Mail Border Mail about the recent changes in street lighting: <http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/3804723/illuminating-plan-to-cut-lighting-bills/?cs=11>

Community energy news

Totally Renewable Yackandandah -TRY

Some good news here: <http://onestepoffthegrid.com.au/yackandandah-100-renewable-plans-kick-off-with-90kw-solar-health-centre/#.VtZmYK1GKY4.facebook>

Also this year the Yackandandah Folk Festival YFF will donate half of their trading surplus to TRY for their 'Perpetual Energy Fund.' This fund is a rolling community fund for community energy efficiency and generation projects with the ambition of stimulating our local economy, building resilience into our grid and reducing the carbon emissions associated with our electricity supply. Fantastic! More information on TRY can be found on their website at: <http://totallyrenewableyack.org.au/>

A Vibrant, Clean Energy Future ... Join the Dots!! Saturday April 23, 7 - 10pm, Yackandandah Public Hall

Totally Renewable Yackandandah proudly invites you to enjoy an evening with Dr John Hewson, and Australian musician, Shane Howard of folk rock group Goanna. This event is a fundraiser for TRY to help Yack shift to 100% renewable power by 2022. Tickets \$35 – you can book here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=184691>

And more details here: <http://ecoportal.net.au/event/a-vibrant-clean-energy-future-join-the-dots/>

The 40 Australian towns that could, and should, quit the grid: Renew Economy

Yack gets a mention here:

<http://reneweconomy.com.au/2016/the-40-australian-towns-that-could-and-should-quit-the-grid-93813>

MASH Solar Initiative Reaches 450 Installs - Energy Matters

450 homes and buildings in Mount Alexander Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire and surrounding areas now have solar rooftops through the [MASH](#) solar program. Over the last 18 months, approximately 6,300 solar panels have been installed. <http://www.energymatters.com.au/renewable-news/mash-solar-initiative-em5369/>

Interesting links

Solar-thermal plant hopes rise at Port Augusta with \$1 billion clean energy innovation fund given nod

Supporters of a proposed solar-thermal electricity plant for Port Augusta in South Australia hope a clean energy commitment from the Federal Government will lead to a go-ahead for the project.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-23/solar-thermal-plant-hopes-clean-energy-innovation-fund/7268836>

Australia's second biggest solar farm comes online

The 56 MW [Moree Solar Farm](#) in northern New South Wales has started feeding renewable electricity into the grid, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) announced today.

http://ecogeneration.com.au/news/australias-second-biggest-solar-farm-comes-online/101409?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feature_article&utm_content=australias-second-biggest-solar-farm-comes-online

New renewables-focused energy retailer gets ARENA backing

This is a very interesting power company to look at:

http://ecogeneration.com.au/news/new-renewables-focused-energy-retailer-gets-arena-backing/101396?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest_article&utm_content=new-renewables-focused-energy-retailer-gets-arena-backing

Here is a link to Mojo Power. Certainly one to watch!!

<https://www.mojopower.com.au/meet-mojo/>

Please sign here....

Petition for Ambition: Victoria's Renewable Energy Target – Friends of the Earth

Send a message to Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy-Premier James Merlino and Treasurer Tim Pallas. Let them know you support a strong Renewable Energy Target that creates jobs, attracts investment, and helps tackle climate change. Please sign here:

http://www.melbourne.foe.org.au/bring_on_the_vret?utm_campaign=final_push_vret&utm_medium=email&utm_source=friendsofearthmelbourne

Repower Port Augusta! – Australian Youth Climate Coalition AYCC

A great story here. The company who runs a 24-hour solar thermal power station outside Las Vegas in the United States has announced they want to build the same thing in Port Augusta, South Australia, as the town's coal-fired power stations close. Such a great idea!

<https://www.facebook.com/RepowerPortAugsta/videos/961991783896607/?pnref=story>

Add your name here: [We need to get the message out - watch the story and sign up to be part of the action here.](#)

RAW Energy Community Conversation report

Here is a link once again to the report of the RAW Energy community conversation last November:

http://ecoportal.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/RAW_Energy_Forum_Report_Dec15_Final.pdf

Keep in touch

Contact us: renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Renewable-Albury-Wodonga-RAW-Energy-1628745107358278/>

Warm regards

Bobbi, Michelle and Jenny