



## **RAW Energy update – October 2017**

October already! Where has the year gone? Firstly, welcome to our new followers and huge warm welcome to our new members and committee, Thank you for choosing RAW Energy as your community group to connect with.

We have had a busy few months and even busier months ahead. There is the Sustainable Living Festival, the Thurgoona Community Energy Forum, plus stakeholder and community engagement to be undertaken as we get ready to complete our project from the New Energy Jobs Fund. A draft is due by November 30.

Read below to see what we have been up to. We would certainly love to see you at some of the upcoming events.

### **What's new?**

#### **New committee**

We are very pleased to announce that our committee has now expanded from three members - Bobbi McKibbin, Michelle Wilkinson and Jenny Davies - to ten! Guy Rowson, Katrina Passey, Edith Peters, Narelle Martin, Tas Davies, Suzanne Pasco and Simon Duncan bring with them a range of skills and expertise. We look forward to working with them in 2018.

#### **Formalising RAW**

It has been decided that RAW Energy should become an incorporated association so moves are afoot to bring this about. Office bearers and committee members have self-nominated and are in the process of formalising RAW as a legal entity. This is to enhance our ability to connect with the local community and position RAW to participate in community renewable energy projects locally.

### **Wodonga Community Solar Project**

The team from Moreland Energy Foundation MEFL is continuing to develop a business case for the Wodonga Community Solar Project. There is a lot going on behind the scenes with ongoing conversations with North East Water and Ausnet Services.

We have also met with two of the directors from the Border Trust to gain an insight into their organisation and to see if there were any potential partnerships that may be had. We discovered many shared values and recognise there is a lot to learn from such a credible and established local organisation. The connection with BT has certainly been worthwhile and we will continue the conversation with them.

## **Inquiry into community energy projects**

Community involvement should be one of the criteria that the Victorian government uses to evaluate bids received through its imminent renewables reverse-auction scheme, a state parliamentary inquiry has recommended. The long-running inquiry into community energy projects released its [report](#) recently. RAW Energy's Michelle Wilkinson is quoted on pages 71, 87 and 91. Thanks for representing us, Michelle!

## **Upcoming events**

### **Sustainable Living Fair, Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 9am – 1pm, Junction Place, Wodonga**

Come and say hello to us at the joint RAW Energy and MEFL stall. Find out what is planned for 2018.

### **Thurgoona Community Energy Forum, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 6pm, Thurgoona Golf Club**

Thurgoona Community Action Group, with support from RAW, is organising a community energy forum as part of the Sustainable Living Festival. The forum will discuss possible community renewable energy projects for Thurgoona. We will draw on local community energy activities and are fortunate to have such active community energy groups right here in our home patch. Speakers are still being finalised but will include representatives from RAW Energy, Totally Renewable Yackandandah and more. We are hoping that the outcome of the night will be support from the community to pursue a renewable project in the Thurgoona area. Stay tuned as a flyer will be sent around in the near future.

### **'Community renewable energy – a way forward', Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) along with Yackandandah Community Development Company (YCDCo) warmly invite you to this Forum: 'Community Renewable Energy – A Way Forward'. This exciting event is to be held during the afternoon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Come along to be inspired and provoked! Speakers include Dr John Hewson and Professor Kate Auty. To more details and to register go to <https://www.trybooking.com/322586> For further information contact Denis Ginnivan, Committee Event Coordinator, 0412 503 498

## **Totally Renewable Yackandandah TRY**

## **North East energy group among national award finalists**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4977242/north-east-energy-group-among-national-award-finalists/>

## **Renewable dream becomes reality in solar power switch on**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4954647/renewable-dream-becomes-reality-in-solar-power-switch-on/?cs=11>

## **Solar energy could be the way to lower home power bills | The Border Mail**

<http://www.bordermail.com.au/story/4943012/solar-energy-could-be-the-way-to-lower-home-power-bills/?cs=11>

## **Cathy McGowan, Independent MP for Indi**

### **Community energy a vital piece of the national energy jigsaw**

Cathy McGowan this week spoke at length in Parliament about the importance of community energy as part of Australia's energy future.

[http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/community\\_energy\\_a\\_vital\\_piece\\_of\\_national\\_energy\\_jigsaw](http://www.cathymcgowan.com.au/community_energy_a_vital_piece_of_national_energy_jigsaw)

She went further than that, introducing amendments to the ARENA & CEFC act to ensure these agencies better support community energy in the future.

### **It's time to support community energy projects**

It's time for the government to do its bit supporting community energy, Cathy McGowan told the Parliament in August. Cathy acknowledged Indigo, Wodonga and Benalla councils, the Winton Wetlands, Renewable Albury Wodonga, Totally Renewable Yackandandah, the Benalla Sustainable Future Group, the Up2Us Landcare group in Mansfield, the Wangaratta Sustainability Network, the Murrindindi Climate Network, North East Water, and Wodonga Albury Toward Climate Health. The speech is [here](#).

## **Stay in touch!**

**Contact us at:** [renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com](mailto:renewablealburywodonga@gmail.com)

**RAW website:** [www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au](http://www.renewablealburywodonga.com.au)

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

**Warm regards**

**From the newly expanded RAW Energy committee**

**October 2017**