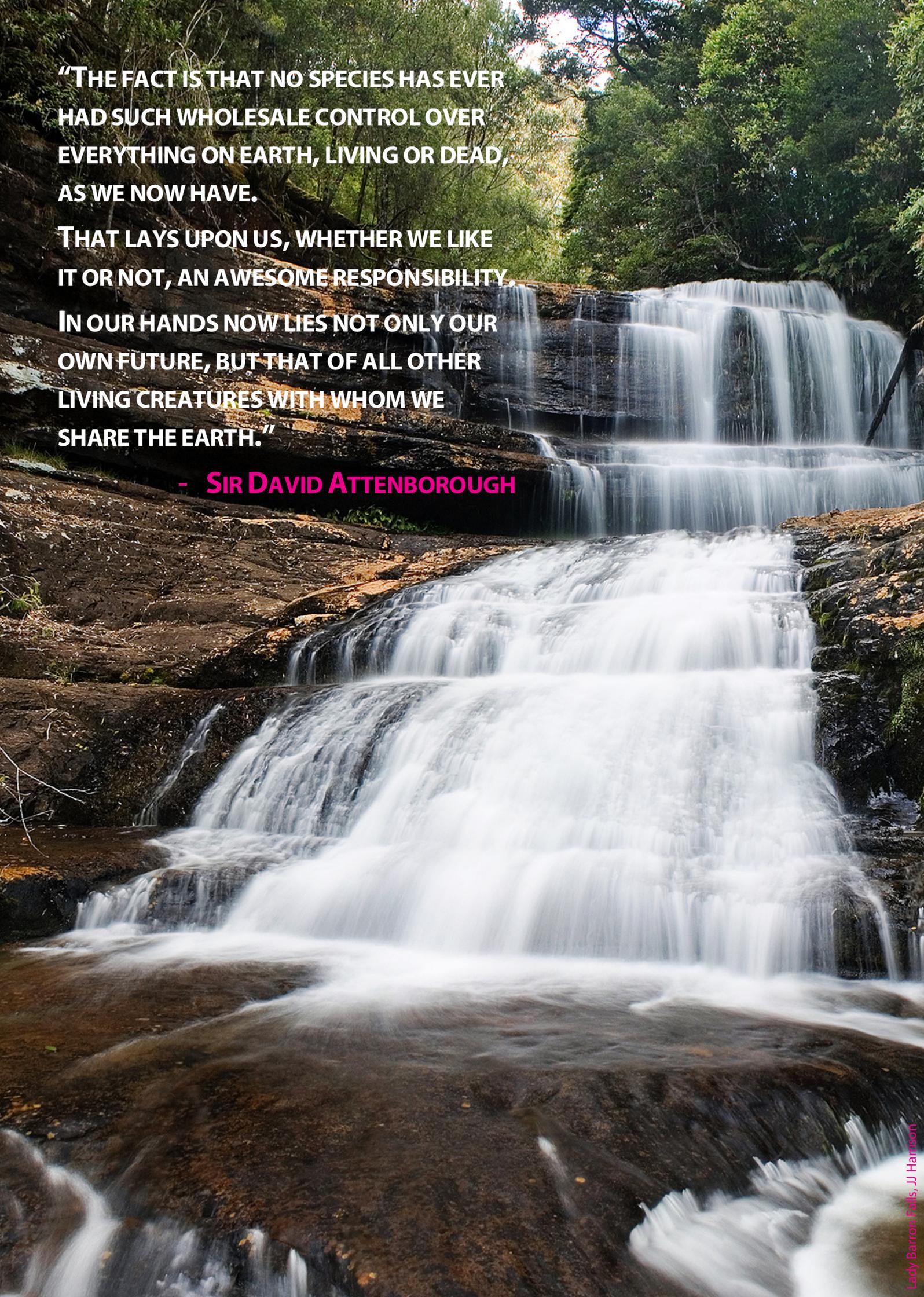




**“WE ALL HAVE THE
SUSTAINABILITY”**

**SUSTAINABLE
LIVING
TASMANIA**

Showing you how.



"THE FACT IS THAT NO SPECIES HAS EVER HAD SUCH WHOLESAL CONTROL OVER EVERYTHING ON EARTH, LIVING OR DEAD, AS WE NOW HAVE.

THAT LAYS UPON US, WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT, AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY. IN OUR HANDS NOW LIES NOT ONLY OUR OWN FUTURE, BUT THAT OF ALL OTHER LIVING CREATURES WITH WHOM WE SHARE THE EARTH."

- SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

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President's Report

Our wonderful community organisation turned 40 in 2012! No mid-life crisis here - we are mature and blooming with lots of new shoots. During the year we reflected on our path and progress, wrote a book about it and celebrated the work of our many members, volunteers and staff since 1972.

This year was a big one for Sustainable Living Tasmania. We have shown thousands of Tasmanians how to live more sustainably. The names of our major projects tell some of the year's story: Sustainable Living Festival, Living Local Feast, Power Savings for Tenants, 1500 Energy Champions, the Tassievore Eat Local Challenge, Living Smart, and Compost Kings and Queens.

We continue to develop strong partnerships with major welfare organisations and the University of Tasmania, resulting in further funding to extend home energy assessments and upgrades. This is great because it helps lower income households who are really feeling increasing energy bills and, because UTas researchers are involved, we can

measure the results and see how much energy is saved and the impact on people's lives. Congratulations to our home energy assessors for really showing you how in kitchens and lounge rooms around the state.

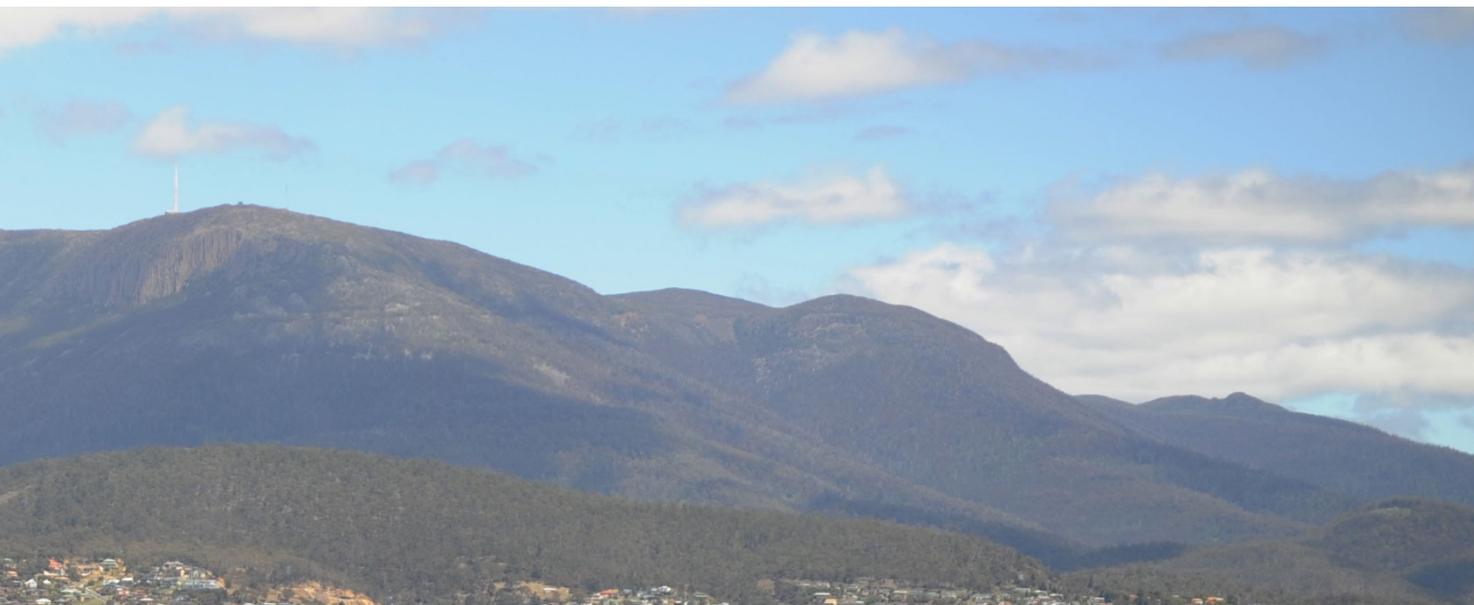
Transformation of our offices at 71 Murray Street was completed during the year and the results are fantastic. I encourage members and friends to visit and see. The Board continued to strengthen governance arrangements. Our energetic President, Corey Peterson, stood down during the year, but remains on the Board and we are grateful for his ongoing commitment to Sustainable Living Tasmania.

Our 40 year book, *From Sustaining Activism to Activating Sustainability*, reminds us of the many small steps that have been taken towards living more sustainably in Tasmania and inspires us to take higher and longer strides in coming years.

A huge thank you to our supporters, volunteers and tremendous staff for your energy, creativity, commitment and good honest hard work over the year. You are wonderful!

Anni McCuaig
President





Executive Officer's Report

Forty years ago, the year this organisation was born, a seminal book on the interactions between human systems and the Earth was published. Titled *The Limits to Growth*, it analysed mathematical models of economic and population growth with finite resources. Of the three scenarios modelled, two resulted in overshoot and collapse of the global system, while the other resulted in a stabilised world. It is that third scenario that Sustainable Living Tasmania seeks to realise.

Six years later, the year I was born, David Attenborough penned the words of wisdom found inside the cover of this report and in his book *Life on Earth*. Like our organisation, Attenborough has strived for many years to popularise the idea that we cannot grow forever and must learn to live sustainably. Nevertheless, humanity has continued striving for exponential growth.

According to research by an Australian physicist at CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Graham Turner, historical data compares favourably with the "business-as-usual" or "standard run" scenario in *The Limits to Growth*, which results in collapse of the global system midway through the 21st Century.

The message... While we have certainly had some successes over the past forty years in terms of raising awareness and changing behaviours, we are falling well short of what is required.

Perhaps ironically, in recent times Sustainable Living Tasmania has itself grown exponentially: six-fold over the past two years!

In doing so, we have touched the lives of more Tasmanians than ever before. This has included thousands of low-income households, who we've been assisting to reduce costs of living and improve quality of life with some outstanding results. This has also successfully challenged the stereotypes that sustainability is only an environmental issue and only for the middleclass.

Our flagship event has evolved from an expo into a festival, becoming a community celebration of living sustainably enjoyed by more and more people.

The new events space we've created in Hobart's CBD is proving to be an incredibly valuable asset for the sustainable living community.

We have also gained spare capacity to invest over the next few years in engaging more broadly and deeply with Tasmanians.

One thing's for sure, we will continue doing our very best to achieve a sustainably flourishing society.

Todd Houstein
Executive Officer



Energy

Sustainable Living Tasmania's Energy projects have been going from strength to strength. Over the last few years it has grown from a niche project to a substantial program, employing over 20 Tasmanians. Currently we have three main energy efficiency projects, namely Power Savings for Tenants, Energy Champions and Get Bill Smart.

This year we visited over 2000 households; helping them to reduce their energy bills and stay warm through energy efficiency education and retrofits.

Power Savings for Tenants

We completed education and upgrades for 800 low-income rental households through this project. Now we are measuring the effectiveness of the project. An early analysis of the energy usage of homes shows that the project is reducing household energy use by 3kWh per day, approximately 10% off the average Tasmanian bill. This project has also been well received by tenants as the responses to a survey shows:

"Thank you. The team who came to my house made such a difference. My power bill was down by \$10 a week or more. WOW!!"

Energy Champions

The Energy Champions project is designed to deliver behaviour change and energy efficiency upgrades to 1500 households in 2012-13. In August 2013 it was extended to the benefit of a further 1700 households. This program delivers a suite of basic energy efficiency upgrades including draught proofing, new lights, hot water system upgrades and more. It is expected that households will save a similar amount of energy as the Power Savings for Tenants clients.

Get Bill Smart Project

The Get Bill Smart Project is funded by the Department of Resources, Energy and Transport as

part of the Clean Energy Future Initiative. The project will trial an innovative, community capacity building approach to the implementation of energy efficiency upgrades for low income households in the Hobart suburbs of Clarendon Vale and Rokeby. The community capacity building approach will be compared with the more conventional approach of in-home education and upgrades to help improve our understanding of the best ways to encourage people living on low incomes to improve energy efficiency in their homes. A consortium of three organisations; Mission Australia, The University of Tasmania and Sustainable Living Tasmania are responsible for project delivery. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting research project!

Hydro Tasmania Partnership

Since February 2012, Sustainable Living Tasmania has been working with Hydro Tasmania on the Power Savings for Tenants and Energy Champions projects. This partnership has helped both organisations build their understanding of energy efficiency and community engagement. Hydro Tasmania's CSR Program Coordinator Kate Hickey said,

"The technical expertise of our people has been channelled into helping families take control of their power consumption, increase their energy efficiency and save money. Our people get hands-on, installing energy-efficient lighting, insulating hot water cylinders, installing draft-proofing and teaching people about energy efficiency in their own homes".

The Energy Program Team

I would like to expressly thank our wonderful team of Home Energy Helpers (see p.11), Hydro Tasmania project participants (especially Liam O'Neill), and our energy project office staff.

Anton Vikstrom
Energy Program Manager



Food

Tassievore Eat Local Challenge



This 6-month adventure in eating locally was a state-wide behaviour change campaign to promote Tasmanian food producers, stimulate local business, reduce the carbon footprint of food, improve skills and knowledge, and increase food security within Tasmania.

The Challenge was launched at the Totally Tassie Picnic at our Sustainable Living Festival in November 2012. Over the following 6 months we kept a blog with stories, recipes and tips from the Tassievore team. With an Earn Your Stars Grant from the Tasmanian Climate Change Office, we developed a Local Food Directory and ran a series of reskilling workshops and farm tours in each region.

Survey results

- The majority of participants surveyed said they were motivated to join the Challenge to support Tasmanian producers and businesses, reduce their carbon footprint, reconnect with our food supply and live more simply.
- 97% increased their knowledge of Tasmanian products and where to get them.
- 100% planned to continue choosing more local food in the future as a result of the challenge. One member stated, "I'm at a point now where I will always look for the local product first as opposed to the way I shopped before the challenge, which was mostly looking for the cheapest product."
- 65% of Tassievore reported an increased connection with farmers and growers after taking the Challenge.

Media coverage

We had considerable media coverage over the duration of the project. The Tassievore Eat Local Challenge was covered by Tasmanian newspapers 13 times and project team members were interviewed on ABC local radio 8 times. The Denison Independent, UTAS news and many government, business, and community group newsletters also helped to spread the word about the Challenge.

Reported benefits

Reduced waste: "We used a LOT less packaging, less food miles, making everything from scratch".

Supporting community: "I knew I was supporting local growers and the local economy through my decisions to eat more local food".

Healthier living: "I was eating healthier than usual".

Increased awareness: "I learned more about where our food comes from, and gained greater awareness of seasonal and fresh produce".

Learning new skills: "I perfected my sourdough routine, and learned to make pasta".

Saving money: "I spent less on going out for dinner or getting takeaway".



Some of the Tassievore team enjoying the farmer's market

Compost Kings & Queens

This was a six month pilot project that supported 30 Hobart households to divert more than 3 tonnes of food waste from landfill and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5 tonnes per year.

Participants received a subsidised compost system of their choice, free workshops and ongoing professional support to ensure they composted successfully. In exchange, participants recorded the amount of food scraps they composted on a weekly basis so valuable data was collected on how effective home composting can be.



David Stephen & Margaret Steadman
as the king and queen of compost!

Events

Sustainable Living Festival



Our 14th Annual Sustainable Living Festival - a vibrant celebration of sustainability - was held on 10th & 11th November 2012 at PW1 on the Hobart Waterfront with the theme "Food For Thought". People found practical tips for making their homes more efficient, learned about everything from pruning fruit trees to building benches out of pallets, asked questions of our expert exhibitors, sampled some delicious Tassie cuisine and gained inspiration for living more sustainably.

Over the weekend we showcased 85 local businesses and organisations that are working to provide Tasmanians with the knowledge, goods and services to live more sustainably. In addition, there were a staggering 75 talks, workshops, live performances and demonstrations held during the Festival. These engaged a diverse audience and equipped people with the skills and knowledge to make practical, positive changes in their homes and communities.

We had fantastic feedback from the 8,500 people who attended over the weekend. Out of 500 people surveyed, an overwhelming 89% rated the festival at least 7 out of 10, with 28% rating it 9 or above!

An expanded festival program including cooking demonstrations, a Sustainable Seat Challenge and a huge edible art installation in the forecourt all added to the excitement. A huge thank you to all of our amazing volunteers, sponsors and participants for making this event such a success!

Living Smart sustainable living course

This course taught 20 people how to live more sustainably, reduce their carbon footprint and conserve energy. The program focused on various aspects of living including, energy, waste, transport, food and gardening.

A behaviour change model was used, supporting participants to set achievable goals each week to make small yet meaningful changes in their lives toward creating more resilient households and communities.

"Thank you so much for making such a great course! I'm changing my ways slowly, one bit at a time, thanks to all the practical skills I've learnt. It's also good to know about all the local community groups, and I feel like I can connect with them now!" – Course participant



Our new event space during a workshop on Tasmanian insects

New event space

We got our new event space up and running this year and it has already had a great deal of use; from us, other not-for-profit organisations, volunteer community groups, government agencies and businesses; including:

- Australian Ethical Investment
- Australian Food Sovereignty Alliance
- Australian Youth Climate Coalition
- Be The Change
- Bicycle Tasmania
- Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary
- Climate Action Hobart
- DHHS Community Nutrition Unit
- Cygnet Folk Festival
- Healthy Places
- Milkwood Permaculture
- Oxfam
- Peak Oil Tasmania
- Permaculture Association of Tasmania
- Resource Work Cooperative
- Society of Editors Tasmania
- South Hobart Sustainable Community Group
- Tasmanian Climate Action Council
- Tasmanian Climate Change Office
- Tasmanian National Parks Association
- United Nations Youth Association
- West Hobart Environment Network

Other workshops & events

Nearly 400 people have participated in one of our 15 reskilling workshops; educational events and farm tours this year.

Building on the Tassievore Eat Local Challenge and the Food for Thought theme from this year's Sustainable Living Festival – growing, cooking and celebrating good food was the focus of most of our events.

A few highlights included: a tour of the Agrarian Kitchen gardens; Tassievore Tips and Treats Workshops held in each region, a presentation on Tasmanian Insects in Your Garden and a forum on the Future of the Solar Feed-in Tariff in Tasmania.

We also held our 3rd Annual Living Local Feast, which featured 100% Tasmanian ingredients and raised over \$4,000.

Lissa Villeneuve
Food Program Manager &
Events Manager





Personnel

Board members

Anni McCuaig	President (incoming)
Corey Peterson	President (outgoing)
Luke Emeny	Secretary
Phil Anstie	Treasurer
Dion Lester	Vice-President
Vicki Sauvage	Vice-President
Anna Lyth	
John Green	
Kirstan Long	
Maree Fudge	
Phil Harrington	

Core staff

Avery Patten	Administration Officer
Zac Cooke	Cleaner
Anton Vikstrom	Energy Program Manager
Catherine Doran	Engagement Officer
Lissa Villeneuve	Events Manager, Food Program Manager
Todd Houstein	Executive Officer
Janine Cooke	Finance Officer
Carl Bennett	Technology Coordinator

Project staff

Lizz Smith	Bookings Officer
Damien Hickman	Festival Officer
Sophie Calic	Festival Officer
Alister Mackinnon	Home Energy Helper
Andrew Watson	Home Energy Helper
Annette Dean	Home Energy Helper
Brian Board	Home Energy Helper
Gillian Newman	Home Energy Helper
Glenda Hosking	Home Energy Helper
Ian Turnbull	Home Energy Helper
Jill Thompson	Home Energy Helper
Judy Micklewright	Home Energy Helper
Julie Hargreaves	Home Energy Helper
Lori Puster	Home Energy Helper

Mike Willson	Home Energy Helper
Nigel Lockett	Home Energy Helper
Rebecca Boyle	Home Energy Helper
Russell Gibbard	Home Energy Helper
Sarah Lowe	Home Energy Helper
Shayn Harkness	Home Energy Helper
Thomas Webster	Home Energy Helper
Tony Weaver	Home Energy Helper
Tim Bowden	Project Officer (Energy Champions)
Margaret Steadman	Project Officer (Power Savings for Tenants, Energy Champions)
Hannah Moloney	Project Officer (Compost Kings & Queens)
	Project Officer (Living Smart)

Volunteers

Sharon Moore	40 th anniversary book
Suzy Cooper	40 th anniversary book
Paul Duncombe	Accounting advice
David Stephen	Community Garden Coordinator
Alex Nicholson	Festival
Dana Elphinstone	Festival
Jess Dix	Festival
Michelle Foale	Festival
Paige Lansing	Festival
Sara Wikström	Festival
Thomas Webster	Festival
Richard Witherwick	General assistance
Avery Patten	Intern
Noemi Royer	Intern
Patsy Jones	Librarian
James Anderson	Library technical support
Andrew Reynolds	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Caitlin Saunders	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Kym Blechenden	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Pen Clark	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Penelope Dodd	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Sandy Murray	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge
Sarah Connally	Tassievore Eat Local Challenge

Finances

	This year (2012-13)	Last year (2011-12)
	\$	\$
Current assets	798,569	579,386
Non-current assets	2,500	2,500
Current liabilities	613,972	445,231
Non-current liabilities	0	0
Net assets	187,097	136,654
Total income	1,855,041	584,560
Total expenses	1,804,598	557,048
Operating surplus	50,443	27,511

A complete audited financial report is available upon request.

Grants

Project	Grant program	Funding organisation	Amount (\$)
GVESHO	Grants to Voluntary Environment, Sustainability & Heritage Organisations program	Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations & Communities	60,000
Get Bill Smart (in consortium led by Mission Australia)	Low Income Energy Efficiency Program	Commonwealth Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	1,748,717
Educational workshops	Inspiring Australia	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research & Tertiary Education	2,000
Educational workshops	National Science Week	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research & Tertiary Education	650
Skilling Tasmania for a Sustainable Future	Skills for the Carbon Challenge	Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research & Tertiary Education	78,100
Tassievore Eat Local Challenge	Earn Your Stars	Tasmanian Climate Change Office	12,500
Living Smart sustainable living workshops	Earn Your Stars	Tasmanian Climate Change Office	14,668
Sustainable Living Festival	Community Committed Grants	Hobart City Council	3,000
Compost Kings & Queens		Hobart City Council	9,971

Sponsored project grants

Project	For	Grant program	Funding organisation	Amount (\$)
Adopt a Waterway – South Hobart Rivulet	South Hobart Sustainable Community Group	Community Action Grant	Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	16,910
Draughtbusters	West Hobart Environment Network	Earn Your Stars	Tasmanian Climate Change Office	8,920
Student Conference	Students of Sustainability	Community Grant	Launceston City Council	3,750
Love Living Locally	Sustainable Living in Kingborough	Naturally Inspired Grant	NRM South	1,000



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