

Complete Working Group Reports

Carbon Farming

Australia's first Insetting Auction was held in Cowes, Vic on Sept 19 at the TRPI Open day. It was a huge success with over \$6000 raised from the donated soil carbon. The first tonne of CO₂e to be traded was sold for a record \$800/t.

The journey began a year earlier when TRPI established its working groups and from this the Carbon farming group was formed with Bob Davies and Bhavani Rooks being the 2 members. Bob and Anne from Bimbadeen were already familiar with carbon farming, Bhavani had a lot to learn.

The biggest hurdle in encouraging new landholders aboard seemed to be the cost of the soil tests. This averaged at \$500 per paddock of the basic test.

Landholders were interested in looking into carbon farming but why would they measure for carbon was the question asked. Many landholders already doing regenerative farming methods.

Bob and Anne donated 100 tonne of their soil carbon for TRPI to earn some funds to test other land for carbon. Until you get the base test done then there is no concrete knowledge as to whether methods are working or not.

It was decided that at TRPI's first open day we would end the presentations with a carbon insetting auction. Insetting was a method already established. A way of trading emissions along a chain of supply or through a geographical region.

The auction began with Bhavani's talk on what is carbon farming, the need for it and why local. The auction began with Australia's first ever 1 tonne of soil carbon insetting to be traded. It was sold for a record \$800/ tonne. (the highest elsewhere in the world is \$100). Trading continued using the idea of packages. To simplify and educate people of the real total of their emissions output. The public is used to paying \$2.50 to offset a flight and this is nowhere near the real emissions cost. Our average price on the day was \$33/t. We had 'the frequent flyer pack, the overseas flight, car pack, weekend away- **see attached file carbon inset sales form**

Sales continued after the auction from direct requests and to date we have raised over \$9000. This is held by Phillip Island Landcare group.

With the money available we were able to get 5 landholders to take on the journey to change. They began with a base soil test in Dec 2019 and will have a follow up soil test in Dec 2021. The money paid for both these soil tests. A contract was entered into with PILG. The landholder is to meet with TRPI quarterly. TRPI will keep a live document as to what is happening on their paddock, process done and benefits noted.

In 2 years, the goal is to have a trading insetting platform. We are looking at forming partnerships for this. Currently possible partners are Bass Coast Landcare Network or/and Gippsland Food and Fibre.

In partnership with BCLN we will be educating farmers to the benefits of increasing soil carbon which lies far beyond just the immediate trading of CO₂e.

Next year, 2021, we hope to add another 5 new farms to this group. We plan to run the same program paying for their initial and second soil tests. With the hope that there after the money earned from trading will cover future soil tests and more.

We are monitoring the current farms and what they are doing so that we can see what the change is in soil carbon and on farm benefits.



Carbon Insetting Scheme

Is the process of subsidising the cost to farmers of carbon sequestration within a supply chain or localised setting. Bimbadeen Farm has been Carbon Neutral since July 2014 and are Insetting all their Farm Produce by carbon sequestration in both Soils and Vegetation.

Totally reNewable Phillip Island

Will provide local people with opportunities to sequester carbon by paying local farmers to grow carbon, in the soil or in vegetation. Local people will be able to buy carbon dioxide equivalent to their carbon emissions directly from farmers who actively grow carbon and have excess stored carbon for sale above and beyond their own farm emissions. Where farmers supply produce through local outlets, these will also be strongly promoted to strengthen the insetting idea.

Objectives...

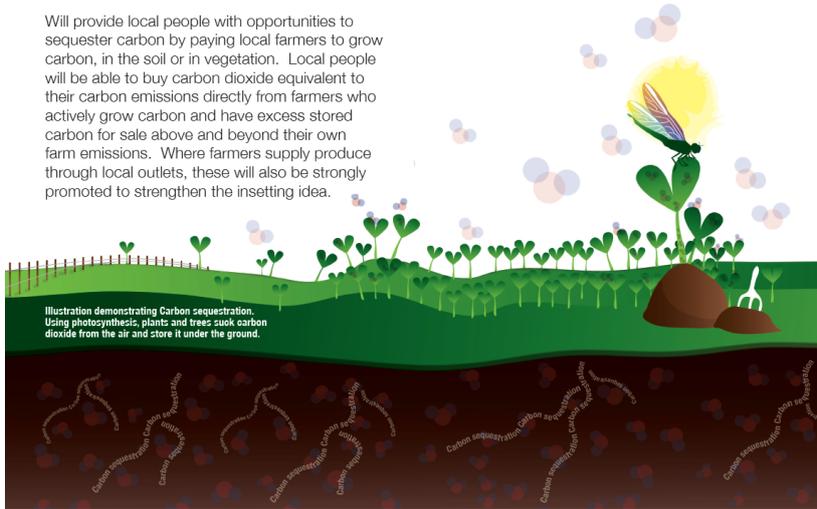
- ✓ Promoting carbon farming practices for the benefit of farmers and for mitigating climate change impacts
- ✓ Facilitating the buying and selling of carbon between local buyers and sellers
- ✓ Developing a carbon insetting scheme that operates transparently and with integrity
- ✓ Inspiring people to inset their emissions locally and buy more local produce

Local Benefits...

The sale of carbon will provide a small subsidy for farmers to adopt farming practices that capture and grow carbon in the soil or in vegetation. These practices help create more resilient farming systems by, for example a 1% increase in soil organic matter increases the ability of soil to hold moisture by 140,000 litres per hectare, which is increasingly important in a hotter and drier climate.

This scheme will also support local supply chains by promoting where you can buy and sell local produce. But there are set-up costs when changing to carbon farming practices.

A local carbon insetting scheme will subsidise these costs of transitioning to carbon farming practices incurred by farmers. When we inset our emissions in local farming systems we will be helping to mitigate climate change whilst supporting farmers to improve soil health and farm resilience, to grow healthier produce and improve farm viability. That's a win-win-win!



What's next?

The scheme will be launched in June 2019 at the Totally reNewable Phillip Island Zero Waste event, with an auction of soil carbon from Bimbadeen Farm to get things going!



People and business are able to Inset their GHG Emissions from Bimbadeen sequestered carbon.

Bimbadeen Farm
emissions profile 2019



Name: Davie Family

CARBON CREDITS

A

Soil carbon (above baseline) _____

Trees _____

Greenpower _____

Total credits =

TOTAL EMISSIONS

B

Stock _____

Electricity _____

Gas _____

Fuel _____

Waste _____

Land management _____

Total emissions =

A _____ Credits 

B _____ Emissions 

C Credits to trade 

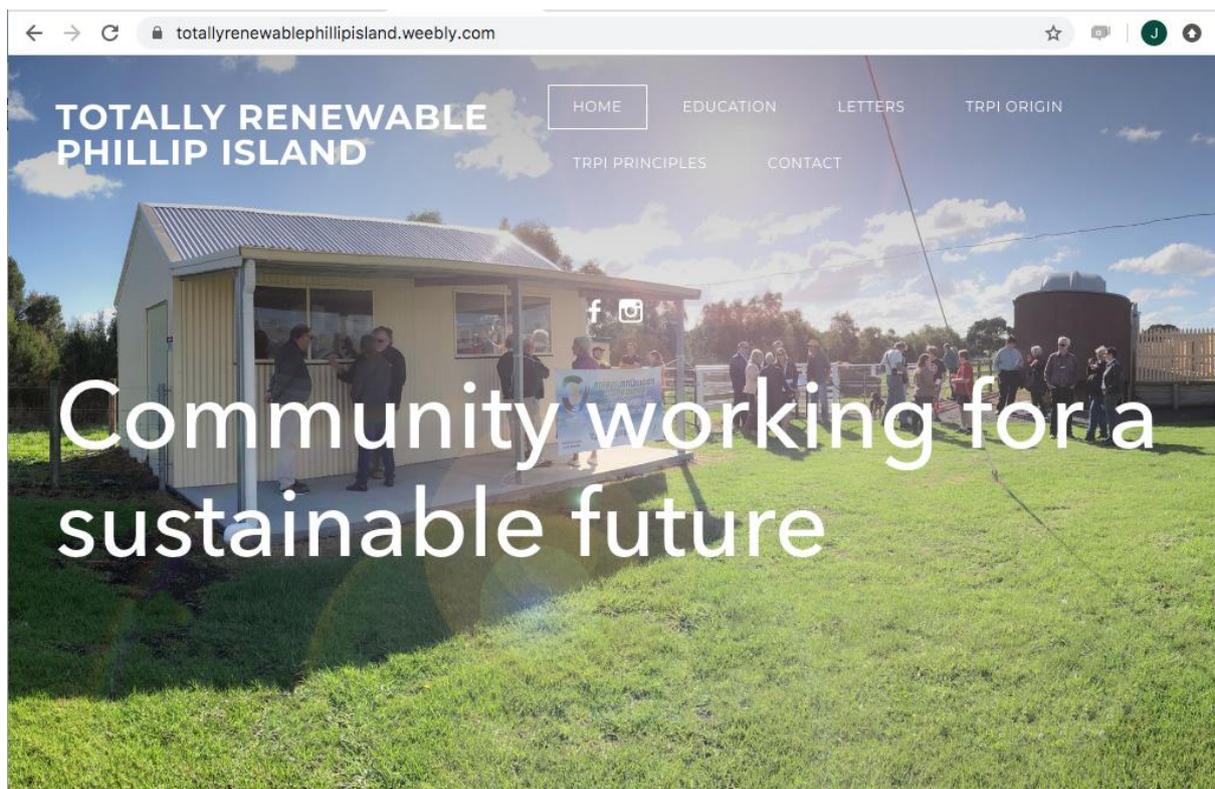
Education

- TRPI Facebook page - public communication tool
- <https://www.facebook.com/totallyrenewablephillipisland/>
- TRPI Web page - social interaction communication tool
- <https://totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com/>
- TRPI Education Pilot Program with Newhaven Primary School
- TRPI Branding and printed tools

Web page - public communication tool

Is mostly up to date, would like to put more information from working groups on there.

Below is the Home page image showing the other pages; Education, Letters, TRPI Origin TRPI Principles and Contact page which is linked to Bhavani's email address.



Facebook page - social communication tool

Action needed. *It would help a great deal if our member groups actively shared TRPI posts, to increase our community reach.*

Content needed. *We are as strong as our content, email jenijobe@internode.on.net to share relevant content and maintain your link to community.*

We share all our members TRPI relevant posts.
 Share from content relevant pages.
 Post information about TRPI programs and UPDATES.
 Post requesting participation with climate related surveys from within and without our region.

Some samples of Face Book banner artwork and post artwork on the following pages;

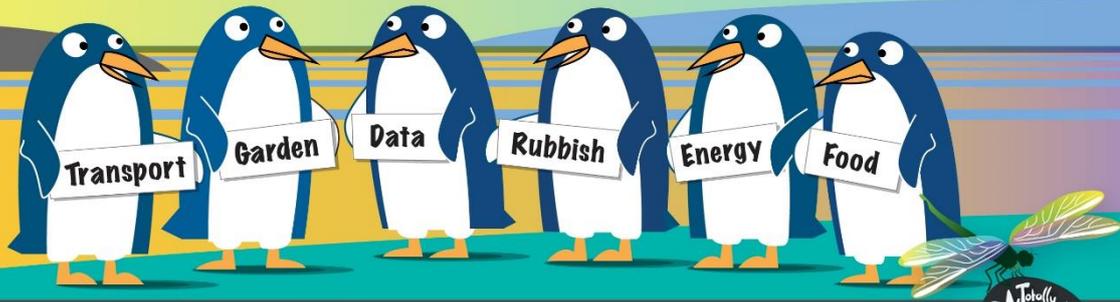
The image displays three Facebook banner artworks for 'Totally reNewable PhillipIsland'. Each banner features a row of logos at the bottom, including sba, Bimbadeen, FCS, Landcare, PLASTIC FREE PHILIP ISLAND, PICAL, BOOMERANG, Job Design, ENERGY INNOVATION CO-OPERATIVE, BASS COAST, Phillip Island NATURE PARKS, and WESTERNPORT.

Top Banner: Titled 'renewables pre-feasibility study'. It features a penguin wearing a white t-shirt with the organization's logo. A speech bubble from the penguin reads: 'Hi everyone, yes its been a bit of a clusternuck of a year, social isolating and everything. Lots of us are stuck at home and have watched everything on netflix and need something else to do, or maybe that's just me... FEAR NOT! Fill some of that empty time by sharing your energy usage data with our man David Cootes and help him build a feasibility study on where to put community owned solar panels, it will fill up a good 15min and you will get a warm feeling in your belly that will never put calories on!'.

Middle Banner: Titled 'EDUCATION PROGRAM'. The main text reads 'Make Every Day NO Pollution Day!'. It features two penguins; one holding a sign that says 'You ROCK!' and the other holding a sign for 'NEWHAVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL'. A dragonfly is also present.

Bottom Banner: Also titled 'EDUCATION PROGRAM'. The URL 'totallyrenewablephillipisland.weebly.com' is at the top left. It features a group of penguins holding a banner that says 'Community working together'. A dragonfly is also present.

Totally reNewable PhillipIsland EDUCATION PROGRAM



Community working together





Totally Renewable Phillip Island ⋮
 Published by Jeni Carman Jobe [?] · 1 March · 🌐

Look around and create an oasis in new locations for local insects and birds!

GrowVeg
 29 February · 🌐 👍 Like Page

When a well planned garden streams over onto a beautifully planted sidewalk....

133 People reached **20** Engagements Boost Unavailable

👍❤️ 4 1 comment 1 share

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

Most relevant ▾

Comment as Totally Renewable Phillip Island 🗨️ 📷 📹 🎭

George Appleton Footpath - it seems like a post from America if you say "sidewalk". Or England if you say pavement.
 Like · Reply · Message · 8w

Newhaven Primary School Education Pilot



The Education Pilot has a dedicated page on the TRPI web site.

Our Pilot started strongly, the students across all age groups were introduced to Totally Renewables Phillip Island's identity and learned about the working group system. During the program meaningful impact was achieved, for example San Remo IGA now has a soft plastics collection program, from students writing letters to local business's. Students learned about the choices our country has for power generation. The school grounds have been improved, our thanks to Barb Martin Bush Bank for the native plants and Wonthaggi Bunnings for the worm farm, waste collection and its sorting has been expanded within the classrooms too. Regular No Pollution and Nude Food days are now part of the school calendar.

The Pilot Program was interrupted in it's last two weeks of term one, by the 2020 Pandemic - students were advised to stay home and the final session was cancelled.

The students car bumper sticker was printed and is yet to be distributed, it's slogan 'Make Every Day NO Pollution Day!' was the most mentioned by students and seemed the best choice to go on the sticker artwork. Stickers are printed on outside UV vinyl and will last a long time in the weather. (Stickers still with us - need to discuss timing to revisit school)

TRPI Banners are still up on site at the bike street entry and the south street side of the school.

On the 13th March, the question was asked of all the Mentors, if they felt we should pause the program in respect to the Covid 19 Virus. Please see email following. I have also added an email from Mary regarding Laura Brearley and her partner Terry Melvin adding their skills and connections to the Education Program. (*"Laura (& Pastor Ian Turnidge) has received a grant from the Uniting Church nationally, for a project on Climate Change with a intergenerational focus and after I had told her about TRPI's pilot project at NHPS she saw quite a synergy project may be possible."*)

Bhavani Rooks 

15 March 2020 at 4:20 PM

To: Jeni Jobe, MF W Cc: Neroli Raff, PETER WONFOR, [and 4 more...](#)

RE: Should we put our pilot on hold till after the school holidays?

BR

I have just got home and was wondering the same
Is there anyway to contact Sharyne and what she wants over the weekend?

From: Jeni Jobe <jenijobe@internode.on.net>

Sent: Sunday, 15 March 2020 10:44 AM

To: MF W <maryfwhelan@gmail.com>

Cc: Bhavani Rooks <bhavanirooks@outlook.com>; Neroli Raff <nerolimr@gmail.com>;

PETER WONFOR <brewpeter@hotmail.com>; heather livingstone

<heatherlivingstone123@gmail.com>; Vietnam Vets GM

<phildressing@vietnamvetmuseum.org>; Aileen Vening <veninga@dcsi.net.au>; Kylie

<kylie@boomerangbagspir.org>

Subject: Should we put our pilot on hold till after the school holidays?

Hi everyone

BIG question here.

Should we all consider a pause in our pilot while the pandemic moves through?

I keep reading that schools should already be closed due to the way they spread germs,
large groups of kids with not the best hygiene habits.

Some of us mentors are in the at risk age group and would be vulnerable to the infection.

I think we need to be responsible and talk about it, it is not alarmist it is relevant.

Thoughts people?

Jeni

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

On 13 Mar 2020, at 3:32 pm, MF W <maryfwhelan@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear All

I have been talking to Laura Brearley who many will know from her community work including the Biyadin Festival and with aboriginal musicians and storytelling.

Laura (& Pastor Ian Turnnidge) has received a grant from the Uniting Church nationally, for a project on Climate Change with a intergenerational focus and after I had told her about TRPI's pilot project at NHPS she saw quite a synergy project may be possible.

I spoke generally about the gathering of resources and developing an education tool kit for this program (after the pilot has been reviewed and refined), to be offered to other schools.

This may be a possible project to develop these resources and a means of delivering it, but there may be other ideas for a possible project.

In the meantime, Laura's partner Terry Melvin who is a photographer and film maker, has offered to come to NHPS for TRPI and video the last session, film some interviews with the Principle and a few of the students etc, and edit and give us a short film clip of the last day.

How's that for an offer!!

I have accepted the offer subject to everyone's agreement that this is a worthwhile thing, and that the school agrees with it.

Once we hear back from you all(by Monday please) can I leave that to you Jeni & Bhavani to check with the Sharyn Munday and the school if this is acceptable and wanted?

If so I'll then get back to Laura & Terry and send them details etc.

Re an invite for the last day Friday March 27th, have we done an invite yet to Councillors and TRPI partners? Also add Laura Brearley and Terry Melvin please.

Thanks everyone.

Mary

MARY WHELAN

Recommendations for Education Program structure.

- Template of program to be shared with teachers prior to implementation
- In depth information for Energy WG / to be delivered by lead teacher and mentor

The following story was shared on facebook

On Monday the 10th of February, Newhaven Primary School was visited by volunteers from Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) who sent their Education Program off to a flying start. A casual conversation with Principal Sharyne Munday in late 2019 about ways schools can reduce pollution has led to Newhaven Primary

School becoming the pilot school for TRPI's Education Program. The belief is that for our community to reach a Carbon Neutral target by 2030 it must first begin by giving children the tools to make a meaningful difference.

The whole school brainstormed different ways that they could cut down on pollution creating five different Working Groups, one for each solution they came up with.

Throughout Term One, TRPI mentors will visit the school and interact with the Working Groups, which will be made up of students from Grades 3 to 6.

The Food Working Group mentored by Peter Wontfor will look at how the choices of foods and how they are packaged and stored can help reduce the amount of plastic ending up in our waterways and land fill. The Energy WG mentored by Phil Dressing will address how the school can reduce their usage of electricity and what alternative sources to coal they can use. The Rubbish WG mentored by Neroli Raff will work towards ensuring that waste produced by students and staff is disposed of in the correct bin, and wherever possible reused, recycled or composted. The Garden WG mentored by Bhavani Rooks and Heather Livingstone will help Newhaven Primary School grow their own healthy produce that students can make into delicious meals, while investigating the way plants use photosynthesis to sequester carbon from the air and draw it down into the soils where carbon content will increase moisture storage and grow healthier crops. The Transport WG mentored by Aileen Vening and Mary Whelan will come up with solutions to reduce the amount of petrol used to get students to and from school. Lastly, the Education WG mentored by Jeni Jobe will collect, analyse and report on data gathered to present in a dynamic footprint document as a record of Education Program in its pilot stage.

TRPI members are excited at the prospect of gaining insights from this pilot that will help them create meaningful ways for schools to teach students how to care for their local environment while engaging with the curriculum. Totally Renewable Phillip Island hopes that the lessons learned from the Newhaven Primary School pilot will be used to better deliver the program to schools in the Phillip Island and greater Bass Coast region in the future.

The TRPI pilot Education Program is looking to be an invaluable learning experience for students, teachers and mentors alike.

It is hoped that the students will bring everything learned this term home and share with their parents, grandparents, guardians and friends. This will give our beautiful Island home a fighting chance of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. All together we can truly make a difference. If you would like to know more about Totally Renewable Phillip Island and its program, there will be regular updates on the web site and Facebook page.





Totally Renewable Phillip Island is with Chris Jobe and 2 others at Newhaven, Phillip Island.

Published by Jeni Carman Jobe [?] · 13 February · Cowes, VIC · 🌐

Totally Renewable Schools!

On Monday the 10th of February, Newhaven Primary School was visited by volunteers from Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) who sent their Education Program off to a flying start. A casual conversation with Principal Sharyne Munday in late 2019 about ways schools can reduce pollution has led to Newhaven Primary School becoming the pilot school for TRPI's Education Program. The belief is that for our community to reach a Carbon Neutral target by 2...

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543

People reached

127

Engagements

[Boost Post](#)

You and 29 others

11 comments 6 shares

Like

Comment

Share



Most relevant ▾



Comment as Totally Renewable Phillip Island



Moragh Mackay Awesome, go you wonderful people

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 10w



Naomi Coleman I am stoked and excited to read this post. This is what our world needs and I look forward to the program growing, the kids gaining empowerment through action and the ripple effect through the community. And I really would love to see this trialled at a secondary school (like mine!) one day soon. I'm sharing. Great work TRPI team. 🌱🌍

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Message](#) · 10w



1 reply

[View 5 more comments](#)

537
People reached

127
Engagements

Boost Post

You and 29 others

11 comments 6 shares

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant



Comment as Totally Renewable Phillip Island



Kerry Mcg Toby really enjoyed the day at NPS guys. Thanks so much for using our school as part of the pilot program. Couldn't agree more that educating kids and their families is such a great way to get things moving for a Totally Renewable PI and planet. Yay!

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



"Most relevant" is selected, so some replies may have been filtered out.



Jeni Carman Jobe Kerry Mcg thank you 😊 kids were wonderful and I'm really looking forward to meeting with my group on Tuesday 🍀

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



View 1 more reply



Naomi Coleman I am stoked and excited to read this post. This is what our world needs and I look forward to the program growing, the kids gaining empowerment through action and the ripple effect through the community. And I really would love to see this trialled at a secondary school (like mine!) one day soon. I'm sharing. Great work TRPI team. 🍀🌍

Like · Reply · Message · 3w



1 reply



Moragh Mackay Awesome, go you wonderful people

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



Joanne Slater This sounds like a wonderful program and something that should be taught in all schools. Keep up the good work.

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



Samiro Douglas Fantastic TRPI - so proud of you all

Like · Reply · Message · 3w



Indiana Starkie Love it 🍀👍

Like · Reply · Message · 3w



Lisa Wangman Couldn't love this more! Fantastic effort from all involved, so motivating and empowering, well done!!

Like · Reply · Message · 3w



Jeni Carman Jobe Lisa Wangman thank you, I can't wait till next weeks session 🍀

Like · Reply · Message · 3w



Reply as Totally Renewable Phillip Island



Food & Waste

Here is an update on our Stats.

Since March 2017 we have produced 15,267 Boomerang Bags. This has potentially diverted 5365kg of plastic waste diverted from landfill. This figure is based on a Boomerang Bag replacing just one plastic bag.

The total does not include the many other items we make including produce bags, foot stools, dog bandannas etc.

Since January this year we have also made over 1100 wildlife pouches and bedding. This has allowed us to upcycle more fabrics that had previously been unusable for the bag making process.

The textile waste that has been diverted from landfill is immeasurable.

We have also been nominated for a Keep Victoria Beautiful - Sustainable Communities 2020 Awards
BB

Clean Energy

TRPI Report – Alternate Energy Group.

Summary points.

- Towards Carbon neutrality.
- Significant growth in Solar system installations and kW registered.
- Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) Open Day October, 2019.
- Newhaven Primary School Pilot Program.
- Smiths Beach Micro Grid – Community Energy.
- More Growth in the renewable energy capability on Phillip Island and San Remo.

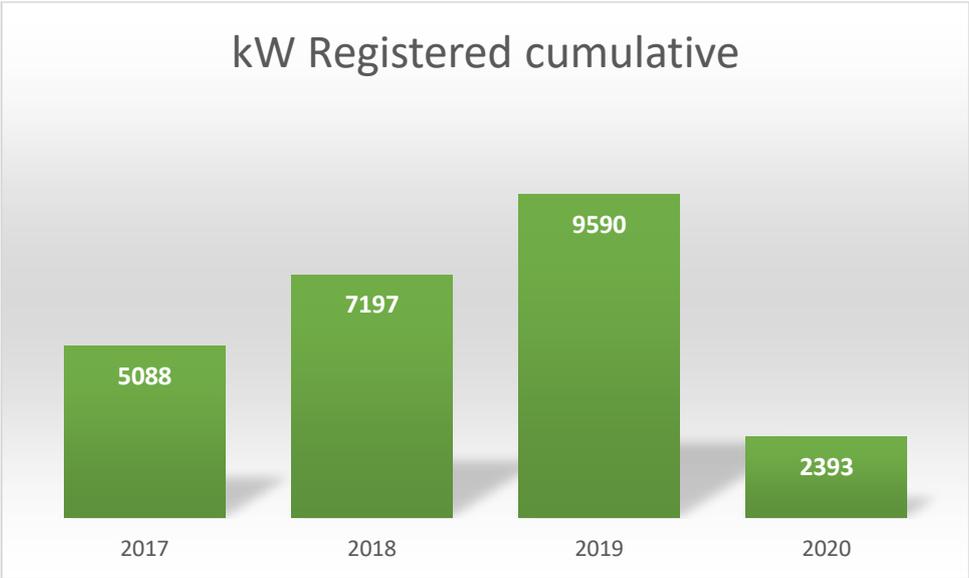
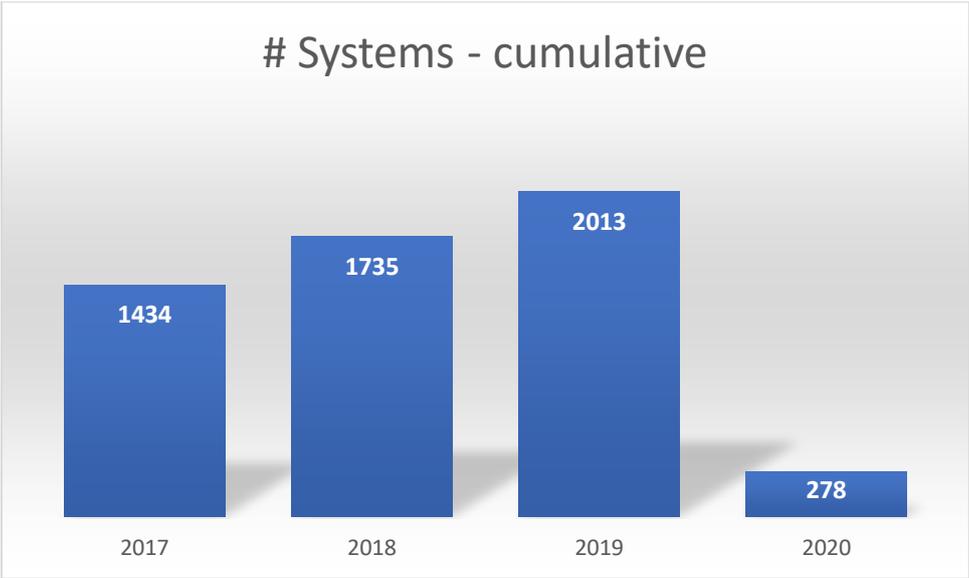
I was asked to join Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) Core Group as an Industry representative with the National Vietnam Veterans Museum being one of the first larger Island entities to install a 116 panel, 30 Kw solar system on its Newhaven Museum roof February 2016) and plans afoot to build a new, purpose built Museum on the north east corner of land at the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Churchill Road, Newhaven.

Various policy documents and strategic plans exist in regard to environmental protection on Phillip Island. TRPI, with its aims and objectives, particularly in regard to energy use and conservation, run parallel to these strategies.

A combination of population/visitor growth and increasing environmental pressures will place a significant strain on the region's natural assets. Protection of the natural environment will remain a critical requirement for Phillip Island and San Remo to support the quality of life that residents currently enjoy and expect. Recognising the impact of the environment on Phillip Island and San Remo will need to be considered in every decision made towards achieving a carbon neutral environment by 2030.

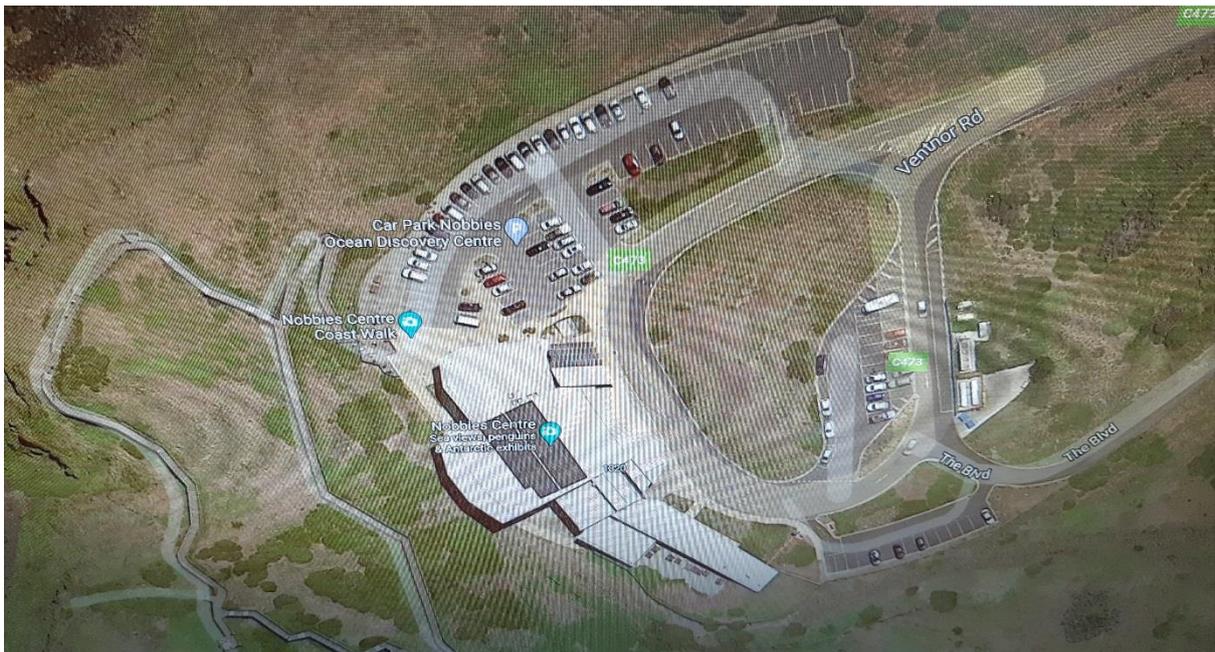
We have seen unprecedented growth in solar system installations with significant growth in kW registered on Phillip Island and San Remo.

The graphic data displays cumulative data for 2017 through to 2019. 2020 is up March, 2020.





Newhaven College with 243 kW system



Nobbies Visitor Centre with 81kW system.

One of the first major TRPI Projects was an “Open Day’ convened on Sunday 8th October, 2019 at the Cultural Centre, Phillip Island. All six TRPI Working Groups (Education, Energy, Transport, Food & Waste, Carbon Accounting and Carbon Farming) were represented providing the community with a roadmap to achieve a carbon neutral environment.

From an energy perspective a number of solar installers participated along with one of TRPI Core Members, Rhys Freeman, providing carbon accounting inputs. A PowerPoint presentation was delivered. Some of the key points included: - A suggested plan to increase solar energy and storage on Phillip Island; Global, National and State Energy Production Projects planned or operating; opportunities for energy use reduction; understanding of holiday population swell impact on energy

use; understanding of peak event impact on energy use; understanding daily energy use and additional actions to increase alternative energy resources.

Another major Project was a pilot program facilitated at Newhaven Primary School during the first term in 2020. The Program included classroom (years 3 to 6) participation in all sectors of TRPI's core elements. The Energy Group was well represented. Newhaven Primary School have a number of solar panels on their school site but recognised more could be done particularly in energy conservation. A by-product of the Project was the need to understand energy use invoicing. A number of anomalies were observed and brought to the school's attention.

Bass Coast Shire announced a commitment of funding for the development of a Smiths Beach Masterplan. The plan, about to commence community consultation, will include a focus on a feasibility study into a potential micro-grid facility for Smiths Beach with portability into other Phillip Island hamlets and towns.

Investigations into alternate energy sources for Phillip Island include tidal generation and waste to energy continue.

A number of Phillip Island commercial entities enjoy the benefits of solar power generation. A number of these entities have only recently added solar arrays to their building rooves. They include the new Phillip Island Nature Park Penguin Parade; Phillip Island Golf Club; Phillip Island Adventure Resort; Newhaven College; Silverwater Resort and Phillip Island Medical Hub.

They join a number of commercial entities already receiving the benefit of solar energy production including the Chocolate Factory, Koala Conservation Centre, Westernport Water Authority, Bimbadeen Farm and National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Of course these initiatives don't include Phillip Island and San Remo residential home solar panel installations dramatically increased with the advent of State Government subsidies. Homeowners can reduce energy usage in a variety of ways without incurring significant cost. Accessing the following link will provide some suggestions.

<https://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/You-and-your-home/Save-energy/Support-community-energy>

From an alternate energy use and production perspective, we are well on the way to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

PWD

April, 2020.

Transport

Report from MW for TRPI Wednesday 22 April 2020

1. Follow up with Laura Brearly about possible collaboration with TRPI and schools following successful NPS project. "Terry is happy to talk further about how he may be able to support your work on the TRPI project when the restrictions get eased. His number is 0434086045 and his email is terry.melvin@tlc21.com.au"
2. I followed up with Naomi Coleman from the Transport Group formed on the BCAN Visioning Event in February. This is her summary of the work on that day:

I was involved with the transport group and we selected one action that we wanted to explore further from many options. This was looking into how we can work with Council to reduce the number of cars driving to popular beaches at both Cowes and Inverloch in the Summer season. We called this PARK - RIDE scheme but really what we were talking about was looking into options to make it more convenient for people NOT to drive to the beach - eg electric shuttle buses on a constant run, share bikes schemes, or potentially other options we might not have thought about. We were interested in exploring for implementation of a trial in summer. Hopefully, Covid-19 will have passed by then and we can look towards a different way for people to access beaches this summer.

3. NR & MW will be in contact with Naomi regularly about common projects.
4. NR & MW discussed the ACTIONS for TRPI Transport Group: Neroli to follow up on the Car Pooling FB page and plan how to activate this after the Covid shutdown has eased.
5. Mary to follow up all interested parties interested in promoting & advocating for Active Transport.
Goal: develop a strong statement from TRPI supported by other interested groups advocating for increased funding priority for pathways to reduce emissions from reduced use of cars, and improve health & wellbeing.
Refer to Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-2023 (includes regional as well as metro)
Contacted BUGS and received responses from all their committee about their priorities for more pathways on Phillip Island & San Remo/A lot of follow up needed with this group.
Previously met with Wayne Foster, Bicycle Repairman in Cowes who hires bikes, and sells EVs for his input on issues and priorities for pathways.
6. Action Plans added to Strategic Plan are appropriate.

Mary Whelan

TRPI Towards Zero Emissions Group

Our goal on TRPI Open Day was twofold: inform the public about current Electric Vehicles by having vehicles on display, and to have an eminent guest speaker to the forum discussing current trends here and overseas.

On display were two EV passenger vehicles, one commuter bus and two Electric Bike exhibitors. All the owners were able to answer the questions people had about the driving experience, the range before charging is needed, the types of chargers available, cost and availability

in Australia, and for E Bike riders also want to know where can people ride these on Phillip island.

We also acknowledged the work of Bass Coast Shire Council for participating in the 6 Council project for the development of an EV Charging Infrastructure Policy in 'Charging Gippsland for Future Transport'. From this report we were able to show people maps with the proposed locations for the back bone of fast chargers (DC- ultra fast or fast chargers) from Melbourne to Cann River to make interregional travel possible; also DC fast charge at Grantville, San Remo, Wonthaggi & Inverloch; destination chargers at Corinella & Cowes. Visitors to TRPI Open Day were able to see the new EV charge infrastructure in the recently completed Transit Centre in Cowes.

We introduced Bryce Gatton who is an expert on electric vehicles and contributor for [The Driven](#) and [Renew Economy](#). He has been working in the EV sector for 10 years, and also is editor of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association newsletter who told us what is coming in the world of EVs.

Ongoing work of the Towards Zero Emissions Transport Group has been investigating the possibility of a community wide raffle of an EV, to raise interest in EV transport. We are also looking for an interested party to offer an EV for hire here on Phillip Island.

Quantifying the carbon emissions from all modes of transport in Bass Coast & Phillip Island, has been undertaken and will be used to measure emission reductions from future changes including uptake of EVs, development of alternate technology to power heavy transport (buses, trucks etc), and increase in Active Transport by the community, particularly for short trips(20 mins), and trips to schools. To promote more active transport, the group is now working to understand the barriers to people walking & cycling more and in consultation with user groups will advocate for a higher priority for funding for more on and off-road pathways for walkers & cyclists.

To facilitate shared transport a FB Car Pooling site was established in 2018 by a TRPI member. When conditions are favourable /post corona virus this page will be re invigorated and promoted widely.

The group has liased with the Transport Group from Bass Coast Climate Action Network (BCCAN) and will work on like projects such as identifying a location to establish a 'Park & Ride' service to reduce use of cars for short trips in summer in Inverloch (& Cowes).

Mary Whelan, Neroli Raff, Kevin Woodhouse

Totally Renewable Phillip Island (TRPI) strongly supports increased opportunity for Active Transport on Phillip Island (& Bass Coast). In consultation with the two user groups and others we have reviewed the current state of cycling and existing road/pathway infrastructure, and the existing plans for improvements. There appears to be significant inaccuracies in the data presented as 'existing' cycle 'on road' and 'off-road' capacity of two roads, Ventnor to Rhyll, and Settlement Rd.

Key observations:

Council has two bodies of work which can be used to attract funding for Active Transport and Sustainable Tourism. Each has had extensive community consultation.

1. The Pathways Assessment Tool: Results/ this has been accepted by Council as the working document from the Aspirational Pathways Network Plan 2016 (whole of Bass Coast Shire).
2. Three plans (PIITS, CAC & VES) have been adopted by Council since 2014 which all call for increased cycle and pedestrian infrastructure to make cycling safe and facilitate the greater uptake of cycling.

Recommendation:

Use these existing bodies of work and accepted plans to promote a clear Bicycle Strategy for Phillip Island (& Bass Coast). The information is all there, people have had their say, but it needs to be seen as a clear strategy/shovel ready and extracted from the broader, more complex Aspirational Pathways Networks Plan.

Use/present accurate data to inform planning.

Background

Key messages from Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018 -2028

1. 60% population – interested but concerned
2. Cycling needs investment to make it safer & lower stress, to increase cycling participation
3. Children- single most effective way to reduce childhood obesity is for Active Transport; also more likely to continue cycling in adult life
4. Simple strategy for Melb & Regional cities: 'being able to meet most of their everyday needs through a 20 minute walk, cycle or PT trip from their home = ' 20 minute neighbourhood concept'
5. Cycling is more efficient than cars & trams in areas of high congestion
6. Need to create safer / lower stress journeys (separate from motor vehicles)
7. Need integrated network- feel safe/ remove barriers & hot spots
8. Cycling for commuting- not on shared paths
9. Integrate cycling with PT more: Increase end of trip facilities & parking; carry bikes on PT
10. Recreational routes- encourage investment & growth of services for cyclists.

Current state for those wishing to cycle on Phillip Island

The Strategic Cycling Corridor, is an 'off-road' Shared Path along the Phillip Island Rd, from San Remo to Thompson Ave Cowes. The stretch along Surf Beach, as many have said has significant safety issues due to multiple driveways crossing the path. Some riders move onto the road shoulder along that stretch, or go up to The Esplanade and return to the path near Forest Caves.

People also ride on Phillip Island Rd and Back Beach Rd with a good road shoulder and white lane each side/ no bicycle marking.

Along Gap Rd there is a separate off-road and signed 'Shared Path' from Ventnor Beach Rd to Back Beach Rd. Low usage currently. Narrower than usual shared paths.

Cyclists often choose to ride in groups, on less busy roads and at quieter times to stay safe.

Accurate data must be the basis of all planning

The map used in the BCSC Aspirational Pathways Network Plan **is not accurate in the representation of bicycle infrastructure (represented by PBN Network) on Phillip Island** (Pg 4 Phillip Island) If this was used as the basis for planning future infrastructure it might explain why there appears to be facilities for cyclists 'on paper' but the reality is seen above, with very few safe routes for cyclists. See the two crucial examples below.

Re 'off road'

Along Settlement Rd from Thompson Ave all the way to Red Rocks Rd then the foreshore as / existing/ 'off road'.

There is a footpath along Settlement Rd but no signed Bikeway or Shared Path. After Justice Rd Settlement Rd narrows and there is no continuous footpath, or for part of the previous block due to a property boundary being planted and fenced for part of the length.

Re existing 'on road' capacity on Ventnor Rd from the Nobbies all the way to Rhyll, along the Cowes Rhyll Rd.

This is not accurate. There is minimal road shoulder on many parts of these roads so cyclists effectively ride on the side of the road, or in gravel at the edge. Even experienced riders avoid this road, and inexperienced riders consider it unsafe.

The PIITS map is more accurate

An accurate map is seen in the PIITS document Fig 5.1 Proposed Pedestrian and Cycle Priority Networks (Map fig 5.1). This shows the 'off road' for Settlement Rd and the 'on road' Rhyll to Ventnor as **Proposed not Existing**.

Three significant reports to Council & their recommendations

Cowes Activity Centre Plan (CAC) 2015

4.4 Summary

Minimal bike culture; school children request improved bike path on Thompson Ave; shared path on Settlement Rd; bike path to Ventnor on foreshore

- Remove angle parking in Thompson Ave and create new bikeway either side b/w kerb and carpark, from Settlement Rd to Chapel St.
- Shared path along Settlement Rd b/w Seagrove & Coghlan Rd
- Build Ventnor/Cowes/Rhyll northern shore bike trail
- An Esplanade shared walk/bikeway to allow east/west bike movement across Cowes.
- Reduce speed limit to 40 kph

Promote walking & off-street parking

Numerous recommendations about improving pedestrian safety (including school children) & activity including more walking paths; removal of roundabouts at Settlement /Thompson and Chapel & Thompson and replacement with traffic signals; no cars on Thompson Ave b/w Chapel & the Esplanade, no parking on Esplanade replace with double width footpaths, create a Promenade Walk – allow 2 m path between stone wall from Thompson Ave to Erehwon Point.

The Jetty Triangle has been successfully completed as part of the CAC plan, removing cars & parking from the area in front of the Jetty. It is now a popular high pedestrian and community activity space.

Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study (PIITS) 2014. This is the community vision for a year-round integrated transport system which has a core objective to reduce the use of private cars and increase PT, walking & cycle.

Recommended Actions /Short & Medium Term

Cycling /Short Term

- Creation of on & off-road bicycle network within 5kms of each township
- Provide end of trip facilities in townships & at key destinations
- Plan/begin implementation of key recreational routes- access to major attractors & townships
- Develop wayfinding system /support peds & cycle networks

Cycle/Medium Term

- Completion of PBN through creation of on & off-road bicycle paths

Networks between townships/ support commuter & recreational cycling

- New developments need to provide suitable on & off-road bicycle facilities / see guidelines & overall PBN

Pedestrian /Short Term

- Introduce shared zones: Thompson Ave b/w Chapel & The Esplanade in Cowes; The Esplanade b/w Warley Ave & Bass Ave Cowes; (see recommendations for SR)
- Decreased speed limits in Cowes (and San Remo) town centre
- Improve pedestrian access & amenity in town centres; Develop Pedestrian Priority Network

Pedestrian /Medium Term

- Extend treatments to secondary urban areas: Rhyll, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Smiths Beach, Ventnor, Newhaven

Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) 2016

Game Changer Project 8

- Develop an “Iconic Walk’ – coastal, shared trail & dedicated new walking trail infrastructure
- Improved connectivity b/w visitor nodes by bicycle is the key to both achieving the goals of PIITS and being recognised as a sustainable destination

Recommendations from the bicycle riders

Owen Bentley/ Phillip Island Cyclists FB Group / ride most days, more experienced, faster group, 50 + riders in holiday times

1. Place Making

Prioritise people not vehicles, eg Olive Justice Place

2. Active Transport/ priority for walking & riding

- Crossing at intersections/protected bike lanes
- Safe routes to schools (? Coghlan Rd) to encourage kids to walk & ride. Discourage vehicles, eg disabled only parking near schools
- Safe & connected paths from new estates to shops & schools
- Systems Safety/ Protection of Vulnerable Road Users – design of intersections, roundabouts, parking, reducing congestion, reducing speed limits, protecting wildlife
- Improve existing paths which are unsafe (eg Surf Beach)
- Tourism Potential- around the island bike/walk track. Link existing paths, Extend the George Bass trail & improve it for riders

Members of the Bicycle Users Group (BUGS)

50 + members, mature & less experienced riders, Wednesday & Sunday rides

Don Turner, Ken Ball, Ruth Scott sent these comments.

Current situation

Good for cycling – 2 good roads with wide shoulders: Phillip Island Rd & Back Beach Rd

Problems with Pathways: San Remo to Anderson pathway, one steep section, poor design, heavily criticised by cyclists.

San Remo to Cowes- offshoots that don't go anywhere

Recommendations: Roads to Ventnor & Rhyll need wider shoulders; Reduce speed limits less than 100kph (80 or 75 better), no roads are good enough for 100kph; More signage- speed limits, cyclists, wildlife- enforce speed limits; join existing pathways eg at The Maze to the PINP trail through reserve at Five Ways/Phillip Island Rd (which then can link to Smiths Beach Rd); increase safe travel to schools- path to Catholic Primary School in Cowes Rhyll Rd; complete the path from Shearwater Estate to Cowes Primary School; complete the Cowes to Rhyll off road path; look for solution to pathway on Coghlan Rd (significant vegetation).

BICYCLEREPAIRMAN / Wayne Foster, Cowes /responded to TRPI Survey of Businesses hiring & selling Electric Bikes on Phillip Island, plus general comments.

Wayne Foster sells new bikes, including E Bikes, also repairs and will assemble bikes purchased elsewhere. He rides his own bike for transport, sport and recreation. In business for 5 years.

Locals: Low level of interest in E Bikes: Older, ride for recreation and vacation; Younger, transit around the Island.

What gives a good experience for an E Bike rider? Reliable, easy to use, light weight (cheaper ones are heavy), good battery range of 100kms

Do they get this on Phillip Island? Bike path network on the east, also Churchill Island, Surf Beach - Esplanade when quiet; nothing to the west of Cowes. Need path to Penguins. Not safe Coghlan Rd.

What is needed to increase E Bike uptake? Acceptable entry point price. Improved conditions for bikes generally.

\$1,000 Price Point- shorter trips/ ½ way to Wonthaggi. \$3,000 better motor, battery & quality.

**** Improved conditions for cyclists**

'Road is for Sharing'- message to all in the community, start in schools

Improved infrastructure, & focus on danger points

Don't impose things/ mandatory eg' if there is a bike path, don't ride on road'.

Needs to be a shift in % spent on bike infrastructure: day & age of renewables /sustainability; short trips – mode of transport

'Park your bike' facilities, eg build into new buildings, more at bus interchange, make it obvious/ make it a priority

Multimode transport/ bike racks on front of buses/great idea

E Bikes, great as a commuter bike, not 'hot & sweaty' at the end; Bikes need to be able to use as a standard bike if battery goes flat.