



## **MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE ... MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Wind Farm Co-op Winding Up**

The newly formed community wind farm co-operative is well under way to realising its dream of establishing Australia's first community owned wind farm.

The wind farm, to be situated at Leonards Hill about 10 kms south of Daylesford, will have a capacity of 4 Megawatts and produce enough electricity to power over 2,000 homes, nearly half the number of houses in the Hepburn Shire.

The Hepburn Community Wind Park will be Australia's first wind farm co-operative. The wind farm will be owned by the members of the Co-operative and profits will be shared amongst members. Whilst it is a first for Australia, successful community wind farms have been a common feature of European energy production for decades.

The Hepburn Community Wind Park Co-operative Ltd was officially registered on 28 August 2007 after nine Directors were elected to the Board (see photo).

Since then the Directors have spent considerable time understanding all aspects of the wind farm project.

Inaugural Chairperson, Simon Holmes à Court, continued to spell out the Directors' dedication, "There is a fantastic array of skills on the Board. We've set up all our sub-committees and each sub-committee is working hard to make sure the project is professional and successful for the community".

The Co-operative will soon have it's own website , but at present the HREA website has a short bio of each Director. Simon Holmes à Court encouraged people to make contact with the Co-operative's board members. "Board members can be emailed directly from the HREA website. We look forward to receiving feedback and ideas from the whole community."

Simon Holmes à Court continued to outline the board's goals for the fund raising campaign, "There's still a lot of work to be done to get over our last major hurdle which is the capital raising. We plan to launch the public capital raising early in the new year after everyone's had the chance to recover from Christmas. We're very focussed on getting the maximum number of community members to benefit from this fantastic community project".

Per Bernard, Hepburn Renewable Energy Association president and a director of the Co-operative, reiterated the community focus of the project, "This project came out of the HREA and it's been the HREA members who have given the grass roots support for this project. Their participation is what makes this a truly community owned project".



Simon Holmes à Court went on to highlight the benefits of the Community Wind Park, “Hepburn Wind is an opportunity for our community to invest in its future both financially and environmentally. As such we’re working hard to prepare a thorough capital raising plan and look forward to providing everyone in the Hepburn region with the opportunity to benefit from this groundbreaking project.”

The Deputy Chairperson, Koos Hulst, also spelt out the greenhouse benefits of the project “Community owned wind farms have been amazingly successful overseas. They have played a significant role in lowering Europe’s greenhouse emissions and there’s no reason why we can’t do the same thing here in Australia, starting with Hepburn Wind”.

For more information about the Co-operative or the Wind Park visit the HREA website at [www.hrea.org.au](http://www.hrea.org.au).



Above: The newly elected board toast to getting down to business.

Back Row (L-R): Simon Holmes à Court (Chairperson), Mim Dineen, Tracey O’Neill, David Wait (Secretary), Phil Hanson. Front Row: David Shapero (not a Director), Scott Kinnear, Koos Hulst, Per Bernard. Not in photo: Iska Carmichael

**Info:** [www.hrea.org.au](http://www.hrea.org.au), [www.futureenergy.com.au](http://www.futureenergy.com.au), [www.windpower.org/en](http://www.windpower.org/en), [www.auswind.org](http://www.auswind.org)

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