



NEWS ON THE WIND

October 2007

From the President

Because of your wonderful support this amazing community project is going to succeed. It is also becoming a great inspiration to so many other communities across Victoria.

As you will read in this Newsletter, the project is now moving on to its next exciting stages. The Co-operative has been formed and it is the new Co-op Board who will drive the project from here. The new Co-op Board will want to keep you up to date on the developments so we'd like to transfer your contact details to them. This Newsletter lets you know what to do if you'd prefer the Co-op not to have your details.

Meanwhile, we hope that the Hepburn Renewable Energy Association which has been created by you can move on to new initiatives that will make a difference in our community. These might include new sustainable energy projects, energy efficiency programs, educational work and much more. For this to happen we need your help. Please read about your opportunity to be involved with the new direction for HREA. Please contact us to talk about your involvement in moving HREA forward.

Lastly, thanks once again for your vision and commitment. We all look forward to the bright future of the Wind Park project and the continuing important future work of the HREA.

Per Bernard

VCAT Hearing Update

As you know the VCAT hearing that took place in June returned a verdict in favour of the Wind Park and wasn't appealed. This verdict supports the Council's original decision and confirms the overwhelming benefits of the project.

Some people have asked if the full VCAT decision is available for viewing. We have posted it on the home page of the HREA website.

Formation of the Co-operative

With the permit secured it was time to create the community entity that will own and run the wind park, The Hepburn Community Wind Park Co-operative Ltd. The Formation Meeting was held on 18th July. It was a low-key event that officially formed the Co-op and elected nine outstanding people to the Board of Directors who will lead the project through the next exciting stages.

The Co-op Directors are:

- ❖ Simon Holmes à Court (Chairperson)
- ❖ David Wait (Secretary)
- ❖ Mim Dineen
- ❖ Koos Hulst
- ❖ Tracey O'Neill
- ❖ Phil Hanson
- ❖ Iska Carmichael
- ❖ Scott Kinnear
- ❖ Per Bernard

The Co-op will soon have a new website but in the meantime you can find out more about the Directors via the HREA website home page. Please feel free to email any Board Member.

The Co-operative is now in full swing preparing for the capital raising which will start early next year and continue for at least three months. As part of these preparations the Board will be sending you a short survey (please see discussion of your contact details below). The outcome of this survey will contain valuable information for the Board's planning of the capital raising and we trust that you will find a few moments to complete it.



The newly elected Board of Directors toast getting down to business.



New Direction for the Hepburn Renewable Energy Association

Wanted - Aspiring Community Leaders

As our first major goal becomes a reality it is time for a new committee and a new direction in HREA. So if you have dreamt of making a difference in your community here's your chance. Being a committee member is an opportunity to work in a successful and popular community organisation. A new committee would also share the exciting opportunity for networking with the growing web of like-minded community organisations. There are groups like ours sprouting all over Australia every day – in Ballarat, in Castlemaine, in the Blue Mountains, in Sydney and even in New Zealand. The time has come for new leadership and new challenges. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact us via the website so you have the chance to be elected at the AGM.

Some of the possible projects for the future of HREA include:

- Solar Hot Water rebates
- A Bio-Diesel plant for local cooking oils
- Energy Efficiency campaign
- Educational Programs
- Cycle to School Program

If you are interested in any of these ideas or you have ideas of your own don't hesitate to nominate yourself for a committee position by contacting HREA at info@hrea.org.au.

Bendigo Renewable Energy Conference

Committee Member Jane Knight recently spoke at the Renewable Energy and Regional Australia Conference held in Bendigo on 17th and 18th of September. Jane spoke about the journey of the Hepburn Community Wind Park. Jane's excellent talk was very well received. The level of interest demonstrated that this wonderful project is being seen as a shining example to other communities around Victoria.

Your information

As you know, the Wind Park will now be advanced by the Directors of the Co-operative. They will want to keep you updated on all the news and other important communication and will therefore need your details to do that.

HREA intends to make your details available to the Co-op for this purpose. Please let us know if you'd prefer your details were not passed across to the Co-op.

Annual General Meeting

As discussed in the New Directions section of this Newsletter, the Annual General Meeting is fast approaching. The AGM is the perfect time to celebrate the new direction being taken by HREA. At the AGM the new Committee will be elected. Some of the existing Committee have decided to step down so this is the perfect opportunity for you to become involved in driving the new community initiatives of HREA into the future.

Please contact us to discuss your involvement.

Annual General Meeting

For All Members

7:00 - 8:30 pm
14th November 2007

At Senior Citizens Room
Daylesford Town Hall

Please reply by email or telephone if you will be attending.

Email: info@hrea.org.au
Tel: 5348 7744