Community Environment Network

NARARA Eco Living Network Inc.

BEFORE THE TIDE FESTIVAL

Program v2.0 (Subject to Change)
Narara Ecovillage
33 Gugandi Rd, Narara

Stall Setup
4-4:45pm

FRIDAY 21/11/25

5:00pm	**Music** **Registration & welcome to Speakers**
6:00pm	**DINNER - VILLAGE HALL**

Stall Setup
7-7:45am

SATURDAY 22/11/25

Entertainment & stalls
Music – Buskers & open Microphones;
Movies – Future Council 2:45pm; Finding the Money 7:30pm
Stalls – Community Environment Network (CEN), Narara Eco Living Network (NELN), Future Sooner, Narara EcoVillage (NEV), Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), Bendigo Bank, Safer Water plus solar panels,& batteries, University of Newcastle, Mudtech, Parents for Climate, Climate Future, NEV Ed, Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), The Point News, EV Cars BBQ
Circus – 1pm – 5pm
Face painting – 2pm – 4pm
2:45pm - Introduction to **Biodynamics**
2:30pm - Tour of 4 extraordinary **extreme-weather-tolerant homes** (limit of 20)

8:00am	**Registrations & Stalls**	
9:00am	**WELCOME - VILLAGE HALL** **Acknowledgment to country** **Formal welcome** - CEN, NELN, NEV, CCC, CCL **Festival overview**	
	VILLAGE HALL	**MEMBERS LOUNGE**
10:00am	**An insight into the Global Mean Surface Temperature -** Dr Dennys Angove **Extreme Climate Impacts and Latest News** - Richard Weller	**Voices for Nature:** Connecting for Nature and Community - Jackie Pearson, Dr Tiyana Jovanovic

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SATURDAY 22/11/25

11:00am	**Break**	
11:15am	**Parent power: Climate Courage for Families** - Suzie Brown	**Introduction to Deep Ecology** - John Seed AO
11:45am	**Lobbying the Citizens' Climate Lobby way** - Bill Shute	**Workshop Tools for sustainability -** for a resilience-based approach to ecological economics - Dr Tiyana Jovanovic
12:30pm	**LUNCH**	
2:00pm	**KEYNOTE: Can we build an economic system that supports the environment and social justice** - Prof. Mark Diesendorf + Q&A - **VILLAGE HALL**	
	VILLAGE HALL	**MEMBERS LOUNGE**
2:45pm	**MOVIE – "FUTURE COUNCIL" by Damon Gameau.** How young changemakers can work with big business to shape a better world. Suzie Brown Q&A Panel	**The Climate Emergency -** Why we can't burn any more fossil fuels - Geoff Cameron. Dr Dennys Angove, Jacqui Svenson. Q&A Panel - incl. Dr Mark Diesendorf
3:45pm		**The Hidden Power of Electric Vehicles** - Vehicle-to-grid & sharing - Jonathan Keren-Black, Jason Borner
4:30pm	**Break**	
4:45pm	**Low-cost Housing incl. Land Trusts -** Lucie Bruvel - Prof. Louise Crabtree-Hayes - UWS, Marijo Lopez - Bundagen, Amie Sparkes - Bendigo Bank	**Resilient Communities** - Tanya Mottl
5:45pm	**Lowering living costs -** Sharing, Local Currencies, Credit Unions, Co-ops - Amie Sparkes - Bendigo Bank, Dr John Shiel, Marijo Lopez - Bundagen Coop	Dinner Preparation
6:30pm	**DINNER**	
7:30pm	**MOVIE – "FINDING THE MONEY" – VILLAGE HALL** **How Money works - Public debt is private wealth** Q&A panel - Dr James Juniper	
9:30pm	**FINISH**	

Sun Stall Setup
7-7:45am

SUNDAY 23/11/25

Entertainment & stalls **Music –** Open Microphones **Stalls –** Community Environment Network (CEN), Narara Eco Living Network (NELN), Future Sooner, Narara EcoVillage (NEV), Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), , Parents for Climate, Climate Future, NEV Ed, Global Ecovillage Network (GEN), The Point News, Full Circle Collective Circular Economy, Climate Fresk, EV Cars BBQ **2:45pm -** Tour of Narara EcoVillage battery and **smartgrid** (limit of 20) **3:45pm -** Tour of 4 extraordinary **extreme-weather-tolerant homes** (limit of 20)		
8:00am	**Register & Stalls**	
	VILLAGE HALL	**MEMBERS LOUNGE**
9:00am	**Innovative Construction** Fast Slow - Dr Sarah Breen Lovett, Kenney Le Mire Low Carbon Materials - Dr John Shiel	**Can EV's Save the Weekend?** Jonathan Keren-Black, Tom Hunt
9:45am	**Circular economy -** Rethinking Material Flows and Plastic Pollution - Dr Thomas Michel , Dr Andrew Nadolny	**Understand Climate science and simple actions - The Climate Fresk Game** Pt1 - Tom Foster - 8 per table and facilitator
10:45am	**Break**	
11:00am	**Planetary Stewardship - The Importance of Duty of Care** - Justine Emerson & Joshua Paveley (EDO); Q&A Incl. Jacquie Svenson	**Understand Climate science and simple actions - The Climate Fresk Game** Pt2 - Tom Foster
11:45am	**Intentional Communities** - Starting, Governance, Sustainability, Membership - Lyndall Parris - **Narara Ecovillage**, Lucie Bruvel - **Shepherds Ground**, Marijo Lopez - **Bundagen Coop**	
12:30pm	**LUNCH**	
2:00pm	**KEYNOTE An innovative model to finance solutions to modern ecological and social crises -** Dr James Juniper, & Q&A panel incl. Dr Thomas Michel, Dr Andrew Nadolny - **VILLAGE HALL**	

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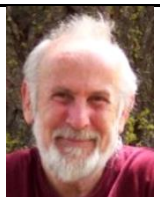
SUNDAY 23/11/25

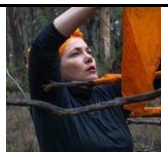
	VILLAGE HALL	MEMBERS LOUNGE
2:45pm	**Funding the Future Climate:** Busting the Money Myths - Dr James Juniper, Dr Andrew Nadolny, T Foster	**Building cohesion across diverse groups -** The Collaboration Game Pt 1 (SDGs & IDGs) - Tanya Mottl
3:30pm	**Break**	
	VILLAGE HALL	**MEMBERS LOUNGE**
3:45pm	**Finding Our Voices:** Empowerment through **befriending our singing selves**. Fiona Maria	**Building cohesion across diverse groups** - The Collaboration Game Pt 2 (SDGs & IDGs) - Tanya Mottl
4:30pm	**Our Climate Future** Ordinary People taking action in Extraordinary Times - Richard Weller, Tom Hunt - CCL	
6:00pm	**FINISH**	

Speaker biographies, session descriptions and venue map are below.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (Sorted by first name)

Name		Biography
Amie Sparkes		Amie is a Business Development Manager for Bendigo Bank, focused on assisting customers with flexible home buying needs
Dr Andrew Nadolny		An economist advancing circular-economy solutions and innovative teaching approaches to address plastic waste and sustainability.
Bill Shute		Now Deputy Chair of Citizens Climate Lobby Australia (CCL), Bill has trained people in how to best influence their politicians.
Dr Dennys Angove		Dennys is on the Board of CCL and a retired CSIRO scientist. He is an authority in air pollution and climate change, and has advised governments on cutting emissions.
Fiona Maria		An experienced singing facilitator empowering people to sing in groups to build connection and unity across ages and cultures.
Geoff Cameron		Geoff is a village resident with a science background and experience in environmental issues including speaking on the climate crisis and the urgent need for action.
Jackie Pearson		Jackie is a journalist active on the environment. She has extensive experience in the media, environmental issues and politics.
Jacqui Svenson		An environmental lawyer knowledgeable about the International Court of Justice ruling that governments failing to protect the climate are committing an internationally wrongful act.
Dr James Juniper		James is an economics lecturer who explores how money, technology, workers and big ideas can benefit society and the environment.
Jason Borner		Jason delivers solar systems through Oz Solar. He also delivers filtration systems through Safer Water, which can help remove PFAS, heavy metals, and other contaminants.

Name		Biography
John Seed OAM		John is known for pioneering rainforest conservation in Australia and globally, and for co-founding the Deep Ecology movement
Dr John Shiel		A village resident and one of the 11,000 scientists who raised the climate emergency alarm in 2020, John's expertise is in adapting homes to climate change & lowering living costs
Jonathan Keren-Black OAM		Jonathan is a village resident and progressive Rabbi with expertise in low impact living including electric vehicles and energy-efficient building.
Justine Everson & Joshua Paveley		Environmental lawyers advancing responsibility under law for climate and planet including governments securing future planetary systems, biodiversity, food and water.
Prof Louise Crabtree-Hayes		Louise advances community land trusts (CLTs), housing tenure, and Indigenous rights to promote affordable and resilient housing through innovative ownership models
Lucie Bruvel		Founder of Shepherds Ground, and a specialist in regenerative agriculture and community-led village development including governance.
Lyndall Parris		Lyndall is the founder of Narara Ecovillage, a gifted communicator & community-builder by helping us through the ups and downs of collaborative living
Marijo Lopez		Leader with hands-on experience in facilitation, events, governance, conflict resolution and legal administration at Bundagen Co-op.
Mark Brown		Retired market gardener, biodynamic preparations maker, and long-time educator supporting organic and permaculture communities in the Hunter region.

Name		Biography
Prof. Mark Diesendorf		Mark is a retired expert in sustainability and renewable energy having founded the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)
Richard Weller		Climate action advocate, educator and author with professional knowledge of the formation and effects of extreme events.
Dr Sarah Breen Lovett & Kenney Le Mire	 	Sarah is an artist and lecturer in Architecture who created the Fast - Slow natural prefabricated construction concept Kenney is an Architect who co-founded Mudtec that provide natural products and services for buildings.
Suzie Brown		Founder of Parents for Climate, Suzie is highly experienced in climate action. She teaches meditation and mindfulness to assist with climate grief.
Tanya Mottl		Global Ecovillage Network Ambassador using experiential tools to build resilient, connected, and regenerative communities with joy and collaboration.
Dr Thomas Michel		Social enterprise founder championing circular-economy culture, repair and resource-recovery systems for local and national impact.
Dr Tiyana Jovanovich		An expert in change making and ecological economics, Tiyana provides tools for increasing community sustainability while bolstering resilience.
Tom Foster		Tom Foster is a Climate Fresk practitioner and founder of EcoProsper Consulting that applies systems thinking to help organisations with ecological issues
Tom Hunt		Tom Hunt is worried about sea level rise living on the bay in Illawarra He is an EV enthusiast and sailed his kayak with outriggers up to the Blockade in 2023 – see it at the CCL stall.

SESSIONS (Alphabetical sort)

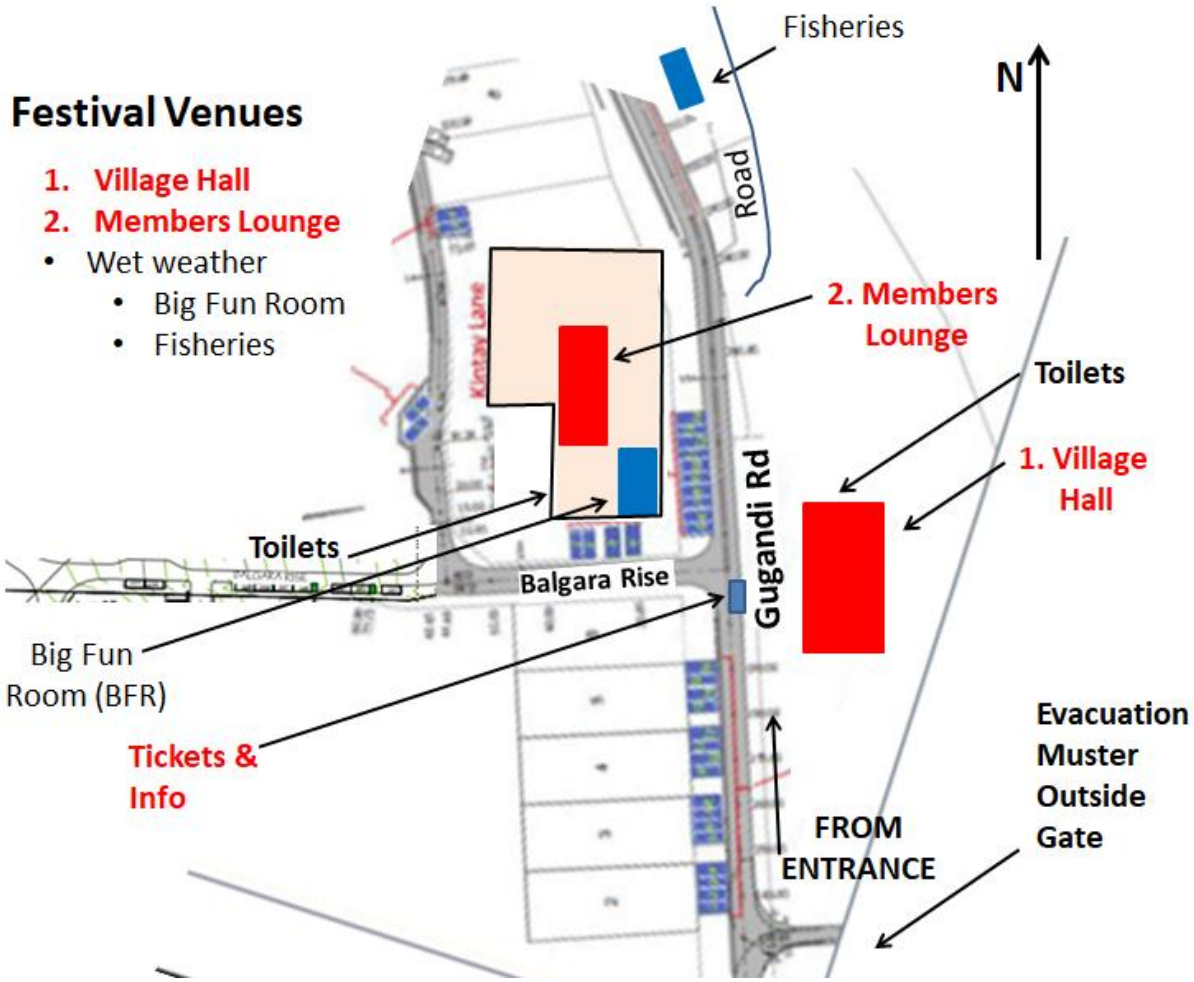
Session	Details
An insight into the Global Mean Surface Temperature - Dr Dennys Angove – Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) **Extreme Climate Impacts** and Latest News - Richard Weller *Sat, Village Hall*	Dennys will explain the scientific evidence we have for our changing climate. Listeners will gain an understanding of 1. The global mean surface temperature and the observational power used for its determination; 2. Where El Nino and La Nina sit in the Australian surface temperature context. 3. The role the ocean is playing during global warming, including evaporation and the Tasman Sea. Richard will provide an update on the latest science news and on the extreme impacts we are already seeing. From the cost of insurance to heat wave deaths and coastal erosion, hear the latest information so you are well informed.
Building cohesion across diverse groups: **The Collaboration Game** - Tanya Mottl *Sun, Members Lounge*	The Collaboration Game is a lively, family-friendly experience that turns climate and community challenges into a fun, interactive mission. You'll explore cooperation, empathy and problem-solving under time pressure, just like in the real world! Together, discover how diverse people and ideas can shape thriving, caring communities for people and planet.
Can EV's Save the Weekend? Jonathan Keren-Black, Tom Hunt *Sun, Members Lounge*	So much misinformation about EVs - we'll explain why - and share the truth! Silent, comfortable, affordable, reliable driving with zero emissions. With the new technology, you can run your home through the night as well! Electric vehicles are an unknown quantity to most of the driving public. Experienced EV owners will speak about their EVs, their affordability, how easy it is to charge them and how great they are to drive.
Circular economy - Rethinking Material Flows and Plastic Pollution - Dr Thomas Michel , Dr Andrew Nadolny *Sun, Village Hall*	As prices of materials get more expensive, you will learn about what waste can be recovered. In particular, you will find out about circular economy principles and practices, circular solutions for textile waste and food waste. Special attention will be provided for plastics.
Finding Our Voices: Empowerment through befriending our singing selves. Fiona Maria *Sun, Village Hall*	An inclusive workshop where we'll re-connect with our innate voices and the timeless tradition of simply singing together. The aim is to recharge and relax our brains and nervous system as well as to build authentic connection among climate campaigners and festival attendees. By singing together and 'finding our voices', we empower ourselves to speak with greater confidence to the issues we face as individuals and across our communities. No prior singing experience required. Shy singers, shower singers and the simply curious are all welcome!
FINDING THE MONEY - **Movie** - Village Hall Q&A Panel - Dr James Juniper, Dr Andrew Nadolny - CofFEE, University of Newcastle *Sat Evening, Village Hall*	A documentary that challenges how we think about government debt and money creation—showing that many federal governments can create money to fund big projects without finding it from taxes or borrowing. The film shows how money really works through a Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) lens
Funding the Future Climate: Busting the Money Myths - Dr James Juniper, Dr Andrew Nadolny, Tom Foster *Sun, Village Hall*	Is the federal debt just like a household, with a need to be balanced? Could the government be an employer of last resort for full employment? This session will explain how government spending actually works to balance the economy, and show how governments can afford necessary climate action. Includes a Q&A session.

FUTURE COUNCIL - **Movie** (by Damon Gameau) 80 mins Suzie Brown Q&A Panel *Sat, Village Hall*	***To our children***: Are you frustrated by the dire lack of action to protect the planet and their future. This film by director Damon Gameau (2040, That Sugar Film) takes eight children on an epic adventure across Europe in a school bus powered by biofuel. The journey empowers the children to take on the big global problems, and explore solutions as they enter the boardrooms of some of the world's largest polluters and most influential companies. This inspiring and rollicking journey, where 'School of Rock' meets 'An Inconvenient Truth', results in the children forming a 'Future Council' to advise and influence the world's most powerful companies on their decisions that impact nature. Q&A panel afterwards.
Innovative Construction FAST SLOW - Dr Sarah Breen Lovett, Kenney Le Mire Low Carbon Materials - Dr John Shiel *Sun, Village Hall*	Explains the **FAST SLOW** house, which is a high performance, low carbon prefabricated DIY timber framed kit home for **FAST** home builder assembly allowing time to **SLOW** down and fill the frame with earth, and fit out the interior. The benefits of using low carbon materials, especially hempcrete
Intentional Communities - Lyndall Parris - Narara Ecovillage, Lucie Bruvel - Shepherds Ground, Marijo Lopez - Bundagen Coop *Sun, Village Hall*	Experts reveal how intentional communities can overcome start-up hurdles, make decisions, stay sustainable, and retain members.
Introduction to Deep Ecology - John Seed AO *Sat, Members Lounge*	How experiential deep ecology can transform climate anxiety to empowerment for action. Deep Ecology challenges the idea that humans are the most important species, and sees us as only one part of a vast, interconnected web of life
KEYNOTE An innovative model to finance solutions to modern ecological and social crises - **Dr James Juniper** & Q&A panel incl. Dr Thomas Michel, Dr Andrew Nadolny *Sun, Village Hall*	How modern ecological and social crises can be financed for regenerative agriculture and circular-economy precincts. They will be financed from a mix of public, private and philanthropic funding sources. The model shows **how land and Intellectual Property could be owned cooperatively and prevented from being taken over**, with combined revenue streams. The aim is to offer activists a way forward, despite fiscally conservative federal governments, in ways that allows **young people to live in sustainable communities** without paying off huge mortgages for "off the grid" housing.
KEYNOTE Can we build an economic system that supports the environment and social justice - **Prof. Mark Diesendorf** + Q&A *Sat, Village Hall*	The conventional economic system we are all familiar with is based on exploiting the planet and the vast majority of its people. Those who benefit from this do so by disseminating a number of myths which, they claim incorrectly, are based on rigorous science. These myths include the notions that: • endless growth in consumption on a finite planet is feasible and desirable • major social and political decisions should be left to 'the market' • in a market economy, wealth trickles down from the rich to the poor • the value of everything is determined by 'the market' • national governments with monetary sovereignty should balance their budgets. Based on research by sustainability scientists and unorthodox economists, Dr Mark Diesendorf's presentation outlines a strategy for transitioning the existing destructive economic system to one that gives top priority to protection of our life support system and social justice.

Low-cost Housing incl. Land Trusts - Lucie Bruvel - Prof. Louise Crabtree-Hayes - UWS, Marijo Lopez - Bundagen, Amie Sparkes - Bendigo Bank *Sat, Village Hall*	We will explore 1) Community Land Trusts (where land costs are removed from housing), 2) State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No 15—Rural Land-sharing Communities (to share land), and 3) Community finance
Lowering living costs - Sharing, Local Currencies, Credit Unions, Co-ops - Dr John Shiel, Amie Sparkes - Bendigo Bank, Marijo Lopez - Bundagen *Sat, Village Hall*	We will put forward ideas to lower basic living costs such as for food, energy and housing. These will include growing and swapping produce, sharing land costs, tips to reduce energy bills, obtaining community finance, and also obtaining insurances from mutuals which have member as their shareholders.
Our Climate Future: Ordinary People taking action in Extraordinary Times - Richard Weller, Tom Hunt - CCL *Sun, Village Hall*	Presenting the actions and emissions targets needed to cut emissions. Methods and solutions for the individual and the wider community. Tackling governments and businesses to advocate for urgent action. Following this, Tom Hunt and others will share their experiences of actively dealing with our politicians and the political system in general including the power of people through group action such as the Blockade of Newcastle Harbour that is planned for a few days after this Festival. To end the Festival a Q&A panel discussion will follow.
Parent power: Climate Courage for Families - Suzie Brown **Lobbying the Citizens' Climate Lobby Way** - Bill Shute *Sat, Village Hall*	Parents of young children feel the weight of the climate crisis heavily, as they wonder what the future holds for their kids. Like young people, parents experience high levels of anxiety and grief about the heating climate. National group, Parents for Climate, has shown that taking action together can help ease this anxiety as well as demonstrating power to all levels of government that they must act to protect our children. Founder, Suzie Brown, will outline how supporting the mental health of parents and helping them take action together has built a powerful and thriving movement. We have the technology, but lack the political will to solve the climate emergency. So speaking to our politicians is vital because they are in the perfect position to make the urgent changes we need to meet the challenge of rapid emissions cuts and to prepare for the impacts we can no longer avoid. Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) have endeavoured to urge emergency action through meetings and by presenting the most efficient solution to this problem - the Climate Fee and Dividend. Bill Shute will explain how CCL works with politicians and political parties to support action. He will also explain the Climate Fee and Dividend and how this tool can help drive rapid change to get us to zero carbon across all sectors of the economy.
Planetary Stewardship - The Importance of Duty of Care - Justine Emerson & Joshua Paveley (EDO); Incl. Jacquie Svenson *Sun, Village Hall*	Governments are expected to protect their people from invasion and war but what about the threats from climate? An extreme weather event was once regarded as an "Act of God". Science has shown us how these are actually driven by natural processes. So where is the responsibility of our governments to protect us from a destabilising climate or from the breaching of other planetary boundaries. Two of our leading Environmental Lawyers will share their knowledge of the progress in law to establish a Duty of Care for the Climate and our global environment. Justine Emerson will cover the Duty of Care cases run recently in Australia while Joshua Paveley will cover international legal decisions. Afterwards, join the discussion in a Q&A session.

Resilient Communities - Tanya Mottl *Sat, Members Lounge*	This interactive session invites families, neighbours and change-makers to explore what makes strong, supportive communities. Using the Community Resilience Cards—developed by those in ecovillages and researchers worldwide—you'll uncover practical, heart-centred actions that build connection, adaptability and shared wellbeing. Leave feeling inspired to make your local community stronger, kinder and more resilient together.
The Climate Emergency (Part 1) - Why we can't burn any more fossil fuels Geoff Cameron The Climate Emergency (Part 2) - Dr Dennys Angove Jacqui Svenson Q&A Panel - incl. Dr Mark Diesendorf *Sat, Members Lounge*	The climate issue is changing rapidly. We are now on a new, steeper trajectory. What does this mean for our future climate and our children's future. Geoff will present the science as it is today in a way that anyone can understand. Dennys returns to speak about issues arising from the talks so far, and what action we and our governments need to take. Jacquie Svenson will explain how the International Court of Justice has affirmed that states have a legal obligation to protect the climate and that failing to do so is an internationally wrongful act. Find out what this means for climate change, governments, and fossil fuels. A Q&A session will have Mark's contribution.
The Hidden Power of Electric Vehicles - Vehicle-to-grid & sharing - Jonathan Keren-Black, Jason Borner *Sat, Members Lounge*	One of the fabulous opportunities for electric vehicles is the Vehicle to Grid (V2G) proposal. You will hear about the progress to introduce this in NSW, how it works and what advantages it could give you on your electricity bill. Vehicle sharing is another way EVs can used for great benefit. Besides storing more solar energy for you to use during the evening, your EV can become one small part of a huge storage system for energy. Imagine 10,000 EVs all available for emergency backup power. This is a very significant advantage of the electric transport sector.
Tour of 4 extraordinary extreme-weather-tolerant homes - Learn how to lower home energy costs. *Sat, Sun, From the Info Table*	You will witness the tricks used by 4 extraordinary extreme-weather-tolerant home owners to remain comfortable even in the most extreme weather conditions, without costing the earth.
Smartgrid tour for Energy Resilience, visiting our 430kWh Community Battery, and the switchroom. *Sun, From the Info Table*	Learn how to pay much less for electricity over time – or even be paid for it! Join our Smartgrid for Energy Resilience tour and visit our 430kWh Community Battery, the new Vehicle to Grid (V2G) EV charger and SigEnergy System, the external grid connection, switchroom, low power network, remote metering systems, and discuss spot market options.
Understand Climate science and simple actions - The **Climate Fresk** Game Tom Foster - 8 per table and facilitator *Sun, Members Lounge*	Want to help tackle climate change but don't have the time to become a climate scientist? Learn to play your part in the climate transition. In just 2 1/2 hours, the collaborative Climate Fresk workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and its impacts and empower you to take action.
Voices for Nature: Connecting for Nature and Community - Jackie Pearson, Dr Tiyana Jovanovic *Sat, Members Lounge*	A workshop that shows the power of what a group can do together for the environment and to improve community. It embodies the Margaret Mead quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."
Workshop using **tools for sustainability** - for a resilience-based approach to ecological economics - Dr Tiyana Jovanovic *Sat, Members Lounge*	Attendees will have a draft approach called a "Theory of Change" tailored to their goals, and a replicable framework for future initiatives, fostering the creation of resilient networks and movements committed to regenerative, sustainable futures. This interactive workshop will provide practical tools including guided exercises for participants to clarify their long-term vision, identify leverage points for systemic change, and map actionable pathways that integrate social, ecological, and economic dimensions.

VENUE MAP



Thanks to our sponsors

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SAFERWATER Safer water, every drop
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