



Well here we are and it is spring already with the infamous “after show day” planting about to occur - I use a moon calendar to keep me on track at this time of the year and I am currently planting bush beans, tomatoes, sunflowers, parsley, dill, coriander and lettuce. We had a sliding door installed in our downstairs atrium last month and now have 5 square metres of inside space under glass that is easy to access from outside - so I am having a go at growing early tomatoes indoors.

We have set ourselves a number of tasks over the winter and it is good to look back and celebrate a few more wins! We have a new website which Judy created and our next Newsletter could well be a “blog” attached to that site - go check it out at [www.3-s.com.au](http://www.3-s.com.au).

With the formalisation of our partnership there has been a ramp up of engagement which is great - it means things are moving, new ideas are emerging and people are engaging with sustainability. Three schools have availed themselves of our services and reduced their energy use considerably - the equivalent of lots of cake stalls and school fairs! You might want to check out your local schools to see how they are managing their energy use?

Andrew is engaged with Sustainable Living Tasmania’s (SLT) Power Saving for Tenants scheme. This scheme is funded by the State Government Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Human Services, Cassie O’Connor. SLT assessors go into Health Care Card holders’ private rentals and retrofit to increase comfort and efficiency. Approximately 800 homes will be funded.

Andrew and Judy are also rolling out an Energy Efficient Appliances Program through the No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) Tasmania to Health Care Card and Pension Card holders. The scheme provides low income Tasmanians, who qualify, with a 30% subsidy off the purchase price for items such as heat pumps,

energy efficient hot water systems, solar panels, washing machines and fridges.

NILS Tasmania can be contacted on 1300 301 650



## Ethical Investment and Sustainability

I was really keen this year to get some integrity into my superannuation - it was spread across three policies and I knew very little about where the money was invested, how it was contributing to the communities it was invested in or whether in fact it was doing more harm than good. It certainly wasn’t increasing in value!

I considered a Self Managed Super Fund which led me to visiting Tas Ethical to find out my interim options while I made the transition. Andrew and I had endeavored to transfer our super the year before to one policy each and none of the superannuation companies even acknowledged our paperwork which infuriated us.

Tas Ethical facilitates this process and do get an outcome! They do this without great palaver focusing their energy on being personable, engaged and accessible. Stuart Barry led me through a process of identifying where I did and didn’t want to invest my super based on my values and the level of risk I was willing to take. The data was great - ethical investments outperformed other investment types consistently - so there is a feel good and financial benefit too.

The other benefit is in how the fund is set up - when and if I am ready to transition to a Self Managed Super Fund in the future the structure of the fund remains the same.



## Sustainable Stories

### *Kingborough Council roaring ahead in the sustainability stakes*

We love living in Kingborough because we have a really active Council that engages well with the community. Several years ago Sarah attended a strategic planning workshop with other rate payers and had input into the Kingborough Council Strategic Plan - much of it focusing on creating a sustainable community that values its natural environment and is a great place to live. Kingston is mooted to be one of the fastest growing places in Tasmania - who can blame people for wanting to live here? So it is great to see some of the Council initiatives and activities with the community to look after and enhance what we have.

The quirkiest bit of news, which I loved (as a gym goer) was hearing about the gym equipment at the Kingborough Sports Centre generating electricity and feeding it into the grid - awesome!

Judy and Andrew have also been working with Kingborough Council to look into more energy efficient options to replace the current oil fired hot water system at Kingborough Sports Centre. This is being done with a view to the Council obtaining co-funding under the Australian Government's Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LGEEP) scheme.

Other organizations confronted by their electricity usage and bills who are seeking assistance include; Clubs, Aged Care facilities and retail establishment. We have also seen an increase in uptake of energy assessment services by homeowners. Generally the savings made will cover the cost of the energy assessment within a reasonable time. Please contact us at via [www.3-s.com.au](http://www.3-s.com.au) if you would like to know more.



## Consumption Fact



- Australia has 28 million **beef** cattle (QLD has 40%)
- This is 2% of the world herd
- 37% of Australia land area is used for cattle grazing (compared to 0.2% urban, 0.3% crops, 0.02% mining, 7% national parks)
- Australians consume 35kg beef/capita/year

## What's happening out there?

Feedback from our April newsletter:

**Deidre wrote:**

*"Always find these interesting. Rod and I are about to have some solar panels installed. I note you ditched the dishwasher - Choice did a piece on this and found that using a dishwasher properly (fully loaded) used less water and energy. I love that article ...."*

**Pauline wrote:**

*"What a great read. I never realised how much an individual can do to participate in sustainable living. I will give it more focus from now on."*



## Sustainable Living in Kingborough



SLiK has just kicked off an Energy Champions project which will run over the next 12 months. This emerged out of the successful SLiK Solar Hot Water (SHW) Bulk Purchase that resulted in 73 homes installing SHW systems. SLiK could see that SHW supplemented by behavior change toward electricity use could make a real difference to usage patterns. SLiK

received funding from the Tasmanian Climate Change Office's Earn Your Stars Program and will be looking into the "Greenwares" and "Greenways" that can support the community in reducing their electricity use. 30 people congregated at the Blackmans Bay Hall on Tuesday night to discuss the project which will include: monthly information sessions, on energy saving, how to manage our thinking to bring about change, hands on house visits, sharing encouraging stories and monitoring our electricity data to see the reductions. All are welcome to join in and if you find it hard to get motivated alone it could be just what you're looking for. Visit [www.slikinfo.org/Energy-Efficiency.html](http://www.slikinfo.org/Energy-Efficiency.html) to see more. For information or queries about the electricity data monitoring contact Judy Micklewright at [judy.micklewright@3-s.com.au](mailto:judy.micklewright@3-s.com.au) or 0412 132 689



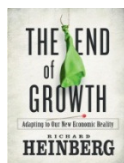
### Bits 'n Pieces

#### Radio review:

Great 1 hour listen to give a basic, easy to understand overview of "peak energy demand", how our whole energy system is geared to 40 hours peak need/year and ways to reduce our peak demand and impact. [www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/energy-efficiency/3934322](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/energy-efficiency/3934322)

#### Book Review:

*The End of Growth* by Richard Heinberg



If you ever doubted that economic growth has had its heyday then this book provides a reasoned, comprehensive and persuasive insight into the reality of ecological

limits and how they relate to economic growth. It is easy to read and filled with facts and figures. As Heinberg points out, "Our collective global conversation about the economy needs to change. We need to be thinking and talking about how to adapt to the end of growth". For a short video see:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQqDS9wGsXQ>

### Handy Information

Here are a few recycling and 'take back' suggestions.

- ✓ Lighting shop taking back used light bulbs - Lights 'N' Lamps, 41 Victoria Street
- ✓ Centrepont - taking old used shoes - ground floor
- ✓ Batteries - Battery World, 164 Campbell St Hobart & 442 Main Rd Glenorchy
- ✓ Mobile phones - MobileMuster [www.mobilemuster.com.au/](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/) (There are many locations in Hobart)
- ✓ <http://recyclingnearyou.com.au/> is a useful resource to locate recycling options by locations or product
- ✓ Also see [www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au/content/documents/E-wastemaster.pdf](http://www.sustainablelivingtasmania.org.au/content/documents/E-wastemaster.pdf) for comprehensive information about electronic waste

Enjoy Spring!



Sarah, Andrew & Judy

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* Margaret Mead