

Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now

Annual Report: 2019-20

Introduction

The Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now (SCCAN) was formed by Denis White in early 2016 to enable people in the Sunshine Coast region, who are concerned about the climate emergency, to engage in local actions to address the urgent social and political change needed to tackle the impacts of global heating.

SCCAN seeks to encourage an urgent transition from a fossil fuel energy culture to renewable energy resources through public education and building networks with other organisations concerned about the impacts of the climate emergency, by highlighting things we can all do now to mitigate these.

SCCAN is an unincorporated community organisation. SCCAN is a group member of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council Inc (SCEC), which also auspices SCCAN for specific public events. SCCAN is also a member of Queensland Water & Land Carers, which provides public liability insurance cover for specific public events and activities undertaken by SCCAN.

This is the third annual report covering the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 and briefly summarises key activities and events undertaken by SCCAN.

Membership

SCCAN offers two levels of 'membership': subscribers to the SCCAN website and irregular newsletters; and paid members. The annual membership fee is \$10.00 for individuals and runs for calendar years.

In 2019 the on-line subscribers were 166 and paid members were 4. In 2020 the on-line subscribers have grown to a net number of 204 (allowing for 'unsubscribe'), whereas the paid members have fallen to just 3.

A campaign to increase paid membership was disrupted a sharp curtailment of activities associated in part by restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the strong growth in subscribers to SCCAN demonstrates the widespread and growing concern in the community about the serious impacts from the climate emergency. The challenge is to move these people from interest in the issues to active engagement in addressing this crisis.

Meetings

Only 2 open meetings were held during 2019-20, both at the Maroochydore Surf Lifesaving Club premises. Both meetings were quite well attended with 11 and 15 attendees respectively, including quite a number of new people. The change in venue from Denis White's home was only partially successful with noise from other patrons being a significant detraction.

Guest speaker, Havannah Nardi a year-12 student with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, spoke about activities and events undertaken and planned by young people on the Sunshine Coast, including the Students Strike 4 Climate. There is a great opportunity for SCCAN to support the wonderful energy and passion of the 'student activists' through logistics, finance and mentoring and is a key part of building stronger partnerships with like-minded groups in the community.

The meetings discussed forthcoming events and major activities planned by SCCAN, as well as Stop Adani and Extinction Rebellion groups on the Coast. They also enabled attendees to share relevant current news and information, and to discuss general business.

Events

Concert

Following the widely acclaimed success of last year's concert "Love Song to the Earth", a second concert was planned at Venue 114, Bokarina in late March 2020. The objective was to use music to bring people together as a natural way to remind us of the amazing community we live in and what's at risk if governments don't seriously respond to the climate emergency. The Sunshine Coast Council awarded a minor grant – community events of \$1000 to support the event and a number of well-known performers were engaged.

Unfortunately plans were thrown into disarray with major restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Tentative planning to re-schedule the concert later in 2020 is still uncertain, being dependent on government fully opening up the community to such activities, as and when the health crisis is brought under control.

Renewables Expo

SCCAN commenced planning for the fourth Renewables Expo, as part of the World Environment Day (WED) festival coordinated by SCEC and scheduled for 7 June 2020 at Cotton Tree park, Maroochydore. Nine local businesses and not-for profit organisations had signed up to showcase new and emerging technologies built on renewable energy, and an application for a major grant for community events was lodged with the Sunshine Coast Council.

Following discussions with SCEC, as a consequence of the major restrictions on large public gatherings imposed by government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was agreed to run the Renewables Expo as part of a live-streamed WED festival, facilitated by IT students at the University of the Sunshine Coast. A number of the exhibitors agreed to provide a short video showcasing their goods and services.

In addition, Brian Martin was asked to provide a video musical performance by his group the Mouth Orchestra, which would be included in the on-line event. The Mouth Orchestra were planned to perform at last year's Renewable Expo, but an untimely thunderstorm washed out this event.

The WED fest ran from 5-7 June 2020, with the Renewables Expo segment featuring on the Sunday afternoon. The event received a viewing audience of 11,800 via Facebook, YouTube

and the live stream platform and reached way beyond the attendees drawn predominantly from the local community at past WED fests at Cotton Tree park.

The Sunshine Coast Council enabled SCCAN to amend its grant application to cover this on-line Renewables Expo and subsequently approved a grant of \$1243. This grant includes supporting the cost of preparing a high-quality stand-alone video of the Renewables Expo 2020, which will be available for widespread distribution as a source of information for interested groups and individuals.

Students Strike 4 Climate

SCCAN joined a large rally organised by the Sunshine Coast Students Strike 4 Climate, on 20 September 2020 at Cotton Tree park, as part of nation-wide events inspired by Swedish student climate activist, Greta Thunberg. It is estimated that up to 3000 people attended this rally, which included numerous inspiring student speakers, as well as live entertainment and a march around the streets demanding urgent action to address the climate emergency.

There was significant interest and engagement at the SCCAN information marquee and all of the SCCAN t-shirts printed for the Renewables Expo were sold, with some being sent as gifts interstate and overseas. A total of 30 people signed up to SCCAN as new subscribers.

Rise to Meet the Tide

SCCAN participated in a climate emergency event “Rise to Meet the Tide” organised by Geoff Cantor at Noosaville on 27 October 2019. The full day event included a number of guest speakers, including Tony Wellington (Mayor of Noosa and Australian Climate Emergency Ambassador) and Professor Ian Lowe (Climate Scientist, Griffith University), as well as live music and exhibitors from local organisations and businesses concerned about the climate emergency and offering practical options for community members to take-up.

The whole event was live-streamed enabling a potential global audience, including direct connection to local councils around Australia that have declared a Climate Emergency. The Noosa Council made such a declaration in July 2019, following direct engagement by SCCAN and others in the community.

Whilst the overall attendance at this event was disappointing, the level of interest and engagement with SCCAN was encouraging, with 5 new subscribers signing up.

Finance

A financial statement for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 has been prepared by the SCCAN Treasurer, Sue Etheridge (see attached). This is an unaudited financial statement.

Total income for 2019-20 was \$1907.76, with total expenses of \$1248.48. SCCAN also printed a second batch of T-shirts, following the great success in selling these at the Students Strike 4 Climate rally. Most of these remain unsold, pending future public event opportunities. The total value of assets owned by SCCAN is \$5045.77, including a bank balance of \$2707.80, as at 30 June 2020.

Outlook

Dwindling active membership of SCCAN and restrictions imposed under the Covid-19 management regime have severely impacted the level of community engagement and activities undertaken by SCCAN during 2019-20. However, the level of interest and concern in addressing the climate emergency continues to grow, as attested by the strong increase in subscribers to SCCAN. The challenge remains how best to harness this energy to undertake local actions that will contribute to driving the urgent social and political change needed prevent a global catastrophe.

It is apparent that the number of people prepared to step forward and directly support or initiate local actions is still small and often represented in multiple community organisations. SCCAN will continue to network with these like-minded groups to marshal resources and maintain pressure on all levels of government to enact policies and legislation to urgently address the climate emergency.

However, it is also worth seriously considering directly joining forces with a well-established organisation, like the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, which has existing facilities and support systems that could provide significant benefit to SCCAN's on-going effectiveness. To that end, informal discussions have commenced with SCEC on how both organisations could mutually benefit from such an arrangement.

Fergus FitzGerald
Secretary
Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now
22 July 2020

Profit & Loss [With Year to Date]

July 2019 To June 2020

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Income				
Membership Fees	\$30.00	1.6%	\$30.00	1.6%
T-Shirt Sales	\$875.00	45.9%	\$875.00	45.9%
Grants	\$1,000.00	52.4%	\$1,000.00	52.4%
Bank Account Interest	\$2.76	0.1%	\$2.76	0.1%
Total Income	\$1,907.76	100.0%	\$1,907.76	100.0%
Cost Of Sales				
Cost of Sales	\$99.00	5.2%	\$99.00	5.2%
Total Cost Of Sales	\$99.00	5.2%	\$99.00	5.2%
Gross Profit	\$1,808.76	94.8%	\$1,808.76	94.8%
Expenses				
Fundraising Costs	\$120.98	6.3%	\$120.98	6.3%
Printing and Stationery	\$137.50	7.2%	\$137.50	7.2%
Total Expenses	\$258.48	13.5%	\$258.48	13.5%
Operating Profit	\$1,550.28	81.3%	\$1,550.28	81.3%
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$1,550.28	81.3%	\$1,550.28	81.3%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of June 2020

Assets	
Bendigo Bank Statement Account	\$2,702.80
WED Banners	\$962.50
Movie Screen	\$209.29
Movie Projector	\$825.18
WED Gazebos	\$346.00
Stock on Hand - T-Shirts	\$891.00
Total Assets	\$5,936.77
Liabilities	
Net Assets	\$5,936.77
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$4,386.49
Current Year Earnings	\$1,550.28
Total Equity	\$5,936.77

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Sunshine Coast Climate Action Now: Annual Report 2019-20 - Images



SCCAN supporters, Bill Salsbury & Mae Connor at Students Strike 4 Climate rally, Brisbane 20 September 2019



SCCAN information booth: Students Strike 4 Climate rally Maroochydore 20 September 2019



Rise to Meet the Tide community event, Noosaville 27 October 2019