

Chair's Report 2022

"The clock is ticking. We are fighting the fight of our lives – and we are about to lose!"

These are the vivid words of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at COP27 in Egypt, referring to the droughts, floods, storms and rising sea levels globally, caused by the climate crisis.

At Zero Emissions Byron (ZEB) this year, our aim has been to 'Think Globally. Act Locally'. Looking back, after the challenging years of drought - then fires, COVID - then floods, this is how ZEB has 'acted locally' in 2022.

*With the aim of inspiring the community to fast-track emissions reduction activities, this year we've produced informative films, held stimulating events, and worked closely with a number of local and regional organisations and groups to get the word out. **Community Collaboration** has been our theme for 2022.*



FILMS

ZEB now has its own **youtube channel**, where our films are collected in **three playlists**. (Google search for: '[Zero Emissions Byron Youtube playlists](#)', and become a subscriber.)

Covering the **Building and Energy sectors**:

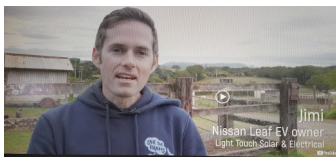
- '**Retrofitting for Energy Independence**' (9 minutes)
- '**Rebuild Flood Resilient**' – Tradie Q&A (1 hr 16 mins)

In the **Electric Vehicle** sector:

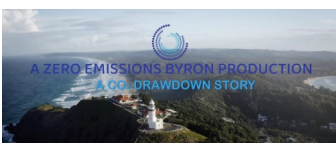
- Eight webinars, each of 60 minutes, addressing different aspects of buying and driving EVs
- '**Why buy an EV?**' with Jimi Gatland (2 mins)

The **C02 Drawdown Series**:

- '**Diverse Reforestation Sequesters Carbon**' (6.16 minutes)
- '**Good Fire Sequesters Carbon**' (7.14 mins)



Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the production of these films, including (for the 'Retrofitting' film): **John Gray** - architect adviser; **Ron Huban** - camera; narrator **Mick O'Regan**, with **Seb Crangle** advising on energy efficiency.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Our environmental scientist and Replant Byron Alliance coordinator, **Wren McLean**, and our Community Engagement officer **Sasha Mainsbridge**, staged two educational events in April and May to launch our **Good Fire** film, held at Wilsons Creek and Broken Head, both located in bush-fire prone landscapes. The pair worked closely with Byron **Shire Council's Biodiversity Team Leader, Liz Caddick**, with a link to the film now on Council's website as well as ZEB's. Wren also worked with **Andy Carbone**, GM of **The Farm**, and both **Dr Kevin Glencross** and **Dr John Grant**, from **Southern Cross University**, to stage a **Soil Carbon workshop** for 60+ attendees, which took place on 16 June. Practical applied approaches to increasing CO2 sequestration across four land uses at The Farm were discussed: grazing, macadamias, market gardening and native reforestation.

FLOOD IMPACT

Despite the Autumn floods affecting 1,434 homes in our shire and 8,364 homes in the Northern Rivers region (including the Mullumbimby homes of ZEB's **Katrina Shields** and **Sasha Mainsbridge**), on 23 June, Sasha pulled off yet another triumph: a **Tradies Workshop** event, sponsored by ZEB, **Mullum Cares** and **Resilient Byron**, attracting more than 60 local tradespeople and insurance assessors.

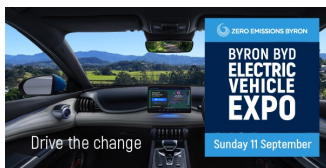
The aim was to upskill local tradies on retrofitting homes, or rebuilding more flood resilient homes, and so prevent an enormous waste of resources.

(Poster at left, by **Brenna Quinlan**, commissioned by **Sasha Mainsbridge** for **Mullum Cares**.)





Headline speaker was **James Davidson from JDA Co** in Brisbane (*at left with Sasha Mains-bridge*) a top architecture and design practice utilised by governments, councils and private enterprises when planning for adaptation in urban environments to withstand floods, cyclones, bushfires, storm surges and extreme heat.
(A film of the event - '**Rebuild Flood Resilient**' - is on the **ZEB youtube channel**. It's invaluable for home-owners looking for guidance to how to best repair the recent flood damage.)



ZEB's ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO

Without question, our **2022 Byron BYD EV Expo**, held on 11 September, at Bangalow Showgrounds was the best Expo we've held to date, with thousands of interested attendees throughout the day. Applications flooded in to sponsor the event and exhibit cars, with BYD ('Build Your Dreams') the principal sponsor.



On display were:

8 new EVs: the BYD Atto 3, Hyundai Kona, Hyundai Ioniq, Jaguar I-Pace, Polestar 2, Porsche Taycan, Volvo XC40 and the Tesla Y

25 varieties of electric bikes and motor bikes from Beyond Byron Electric, Summerland Electric Moto, Vallkree and Fonzarelli, as well as 6 'personal transportation vehicles' (aka golf carts) from ClubCar.

Three 1970s VW Kombis, converted to EV, were displayed, as well as a Peugeot E-Event delivery van, and more than 20 privately owned electric vehicles.



Three local bands played music during the event, while food and drinks were offered by local food providers. Kids were engaged via an art exhibition of their paintings of their dream EV, and attendees were also able to watch a range of ZEB, EV and environmental films, as well as participate in a Q&A session with key EV experts.



Local businesses providing displays included **Light Touch Solar & Electrical**, **Juno Energy**, **The Driven**, **Byron Shire Council**, **Coast Byron**, **Heinz Solar** and **Rainbow Power**. The **NSW Dept of the Environment** had a stand. **Southern Cross University** displayed their converted Kombi. **Damon Gameau** and **Regenerating Australia** donated a screening of their film of that name. Six other local companies provided services and equipment, with keen and active help from the **Bangalow Lions** and **Bangalow Mens' Shed**.

GRANT HIGHLIGHT

Taking the *Good Fire* project further, ZEB board member **Dr Anne Stuart** applied for, and secured a \$21,840 grant from the Ingrained Foundation. Launched by the Foundation at **Stone and Wood** on 10 June, the money is being used to work with the local indigenous community and landholders to create and implement a **Good Fire Template**, and **Strategic Fire Mapping**. As well, a register of engaged property owners is under development, with public education on the benefits of "cool burning" to the local landscape, to come.

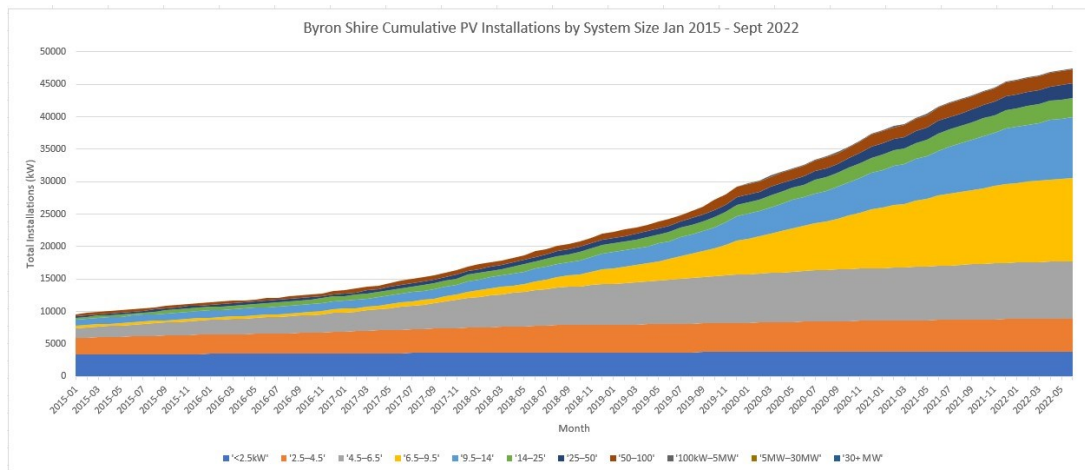


Progress to date? Dr Stuart reports:

"We are in the final draft stages of developing the Good Fire Template and Strategic Fire Mapping. We are in the process of consultation on the template and supporting documents with representative stakeholders including Byron Council, Landcare, and Indigenous groups. The 'buy-in' of all these stakeholder groups on the Good Fire Template will be foundational for all burns.

"The focus will be the Koonyum Range, inclusive of Broken Head landholders. **Workshops will be held in March and April 2023** in preparation for the upcoming burn season. Involvement of Indigenous practitioners is a priority and guidance from Jagun Alliance on how best to do this will be sought. This will directly support Jagun Alliance's existing grant program and professional development for newly recruited staff."





REDUCING EMISSIONS

Roof top solar progress to date? “Almost **4 MW of solar PV** have been installed in Byron Shire to date in 2022,” says ZEB Board member Dr Muriel Watt. “Total installed capacity is now over 41.5 MW. When Zero Emissions Byron began in 2015, the installed capacity of solar PV in Byron Shire was less than 10MW. “One third of Byron system capacity is in the 6.5 – 9.5 kW size range, although more capacity has been added via systems of 14-25 kW so far in 2022.”

The graph above has been compiled from data on the **APVI Solar Map** for the four Byron postcodes covering Bangalow, Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores (2479, 2481, 2482, 2483).

Image source: [Australian Photovoltaic Institute • PV Postcode Data \(apvi.org.au\)](https://www.apvi.org.au)



NETWORKING

Board member Dr Muriel Watt has been the ZEB representative on the **Sustain Energy Group** (Northern Rivers) this year. This working group, which meets regularly, is a network of Councils, regional peak bodies, and community renewable energy groups, facilitating the transition to renewable energy in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

ZEB is also pleased to be a “community member” on Byron Shire Council’s **Climate Change and Resource Recovery Advisory Committee**. Its purpose is to “assist Council in the development, implementation and review of relevant sustainability, resource recovery and climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, policies and projects.”

PUBLICITY

The ZEB Comms team is relentless in its mission to “spread the word”, in whatever means. Abundant media coverage has been obtained, with interviews on **ABC North Coast radio** and **Bay FM 99.9 radio**, and articles in the **Byron Shire Echo**, **Bangalow Herald**, the **Ballina Wave**, the **Lennox Wave**, the **Byron Wave**, **The Driven**, and even a few minutes on **NBN TV prime time news**, covering the EV Expo. Regularly, **e-newsletters** are distributed to more than 1000 subscribers, with frequent Facebook and Blog posts made between e-news editions.



THE BOARD

We bid farewell to ZEB Board Member, **Jennifer Grainger** on 25 August, and we were happy to welcome home energy consultant, **Sebastian Crangle**, to the Board (*at left*), on 27 September. What ZEB gets up to, could not happen without the hours of behind-the-scenes work from our tireless **Board of Directors**: **Katrina Shields**, **Muriel Watt**, **Anne Stuart**, **Robert Goodwill** and now **Seb Crangle**. I thank them all for their energy and dedication. I’d also like to thank you - our supporters – for your ongoing help in 2022, and your commitment to our goals and efforts to reduce Byron Shire’s carbon emissions. (Donations always welcome!)



On 15 May 2022 ZEB founding member **Christopher Sanderson**, my partner of 39 years, died. His comprehensive research into, and understanding of, the progress of climate change over the past decades, has been an immense support to me and the ZEB team. He inspired many of our events. His idea for **Professor Will Steffen’s BIG U-TURN** presentation at Byron Theatre was typical. He had it filmed, then distributed USB copies of it to many local Councils around Australia, to inspire their efforts to combat climate change at the LGA level. At home, ahead of the curve, he had a 10kW ground-mounted solar PV farm installed in 2011, and the three batteries he had installed in recent years, now happily charge our home and electric vehicle. Vale Christopher.

Christobel Munson
Chair