

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Zero Emissions Noosa Incorporated



Incorporation No: IA57064

ABN: 74862487515

ACNC Registered Charity

Registered Business Name: Zero Emissions Noosa

ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA ANNUAL REPORT

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1 President’s Remarks

2019 was defined by the catastrophic bushfires that engulfed Australia, together with the hottest year on record. The reality of these events was brought home to Noosa residents, when on two separate occasions, many were forced to evacuate as their homes and lives became at risk. We pay tribute to the fire services men and women who have been fighting these bushfires across Australia, many as volunteers.

As I write, the world has now been engulfed by COVID-19, and its terrible impacts for health and employment. Many people are losing their jobs, and governments need to evolve from the “small government” model which has dominated western democracies for several decades. Job creation needs to be part of their safety net agenda to get people through this crisis. We hope that opportunities for a “green new deal” are seized by all levels of government, so that a better future is possible out of this crisis.

Whilst COVID-19 is dominating discussion right now, it is important to remember the reason Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN) was formed 3 years ago. While Australia might be relatively low in terms of its overall greenhouse gas emissions, our vulnerability to climate change is dependent on global action to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. We cannot ask others to step up to the plate if we do not also play our part.

I am proud to report that a remarkable team of ZEN volunteers has ensured that we have built strong partnerships with many sectors of the Noosa community in 2019, and this has resulted in bringing the emissions reduction message and action to many residents and businesses. This Annual Report will detail some of those initiatives and the great team behind them.

I would particularly like to thank the ZEN Management Committee, which has provided guidance, oversight and good governance during the year:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Treasurer: | Joe Shlegeris |
| Secretary: | Darren Walters |
| Governance Sub-Committee Chair: | Anne Kennedy |
| Committee: | Carina Anderson |
| | Juanita Bloomfield Terry |
| | Roman Raudonikis |
| | Thorsten Kels |
| | Daniel Bryar |
| | Dalia Mikhail (resigned September to take up position of Coordinator) |

Vivien Griffin
President



2. Noosa’s Electricity Consumption Statistics¹

ZEN research has revealed that Noosa residents and businesses are demonstrating significant progress in reductions in grid electricity consumption and uptake by business of rooftop solar.

We know that an estimated \$77M leaves the shire in electricity costs per year, of which about \$27M is attributable to business grid consumption. Table 1 below documents Noosa’s grid electricity consumption (in Gigawatt hours) which has been reducing since 2009. This data demonstrates an 11% reduction in electricity consumption since 2009. However, the results are even more remarkable given population growth of 10% since 2009. This means that the average residential grid electricity consumption per person has fallen from 3,975 kWh to 3,052 kWh - **a 23% reduction**.

TABLE 1 Noosa Electricity Grid Consumption

	2009	Current
Residential Energy Consumption	200.08 GWh	168.98 GWh
Business Energy Consumption	136.71 GWh	129.39 GWh
Total	336.79 GWh	298.37 GWh

The results for business are equally encouraging. The growth in both numbers of businesses with solar, and total business solar capacity from May 2018 to October 2019 is remarkable.

Table 2 below documents the increase in the amount of business solar since the Roadmap figures were determined, ie **176% increase in number of businesses with solar**, and **172% increase in the capacity of business solar**.

TABLE 2 Noosa Business Solar

	May 2018 Roadmap	30 October 2019
>10kW and <100kW	145 installations	399 installations
Installed capacity	2845 kW	7484 kW
> 100kW	none	1 installation
Installed capacity	none	251 kw
Total MW capacity	2.85MW	7.74MW
Total installations	145	400
% business with solar	4.7%	13.0%

¹ <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/noosa-electricity-data>

3. Strategic Plan

I am delighted to report that ZEN now has a comprehensive Strategic Plan², together with an Action Plan outlining the what, who and when of delivering on the goals of the Strategic Plan. This would not have been achieved without the diligent work of Anne Kennedy in gently shepherding the Management Committee along this path.

4. Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Progress

One of ZEN's goals is to achieve tax deductible status for donations to our organisation. We are aware of the Commonwealth Government's requirements in this regard, and have gradually been putting the pieces in place to deliver on this goal, led by our fearless Treasurer, Joe Shlegeris. We anticipate that an application will be lodged with the Register of Environmental Organisations in 2020, after finalising certain constitutional and membership requirements.

5. Website/Facebook

With funding from Noosa Council, we finally delivered on the goal of a website³ that is informative, interactive and simply terrific! For this considerable achievement, I thank Geoff Acton, Dalia Mikhail, Anne Kennedy and Thorsten Kels. I anticipate that the website will grow in importance as our outreach to the community grows. I also want to thank Geoff Acton, Duncan McQueen and Malcolm Scott for their regular posts on our Facebook pages.

6. ZENe

ZENe is our electricity emissions reductions Working Group, convened by Joe Shlegeris. This group has been in existence since our inception 3 years ago, and has been the creative force behind many of the ZEN electricity emission reduction initiatives. It is an informal group meeting monthly, and new enthusiastic members are always made welcome. My thanks to Joe Shlegeris for his commitment to the role of convenor since inception.

7. Business Campaign

The Roadmap Report⁴ produced in 2018 clearly identified that the business community should be a priority for encouraging the take up of rooftop solar. Not only is it environmentally responsible, but also delivers significant financial benefits to businesses who install rooftop solar. The report identified that only 5% of the business community had rooftop solar, compared to 37% for residential.

Under team leader Anne Kennedy, the ZEN Business Campaign team set itself the goal of growing the uptake of solar in this sector. Other members of the team are Joe Shlegeris, Dalia Mikhail, Daniel Bryar, Malcolm Thornton and Vivien Griffin.

The 2018 research report by The Social Deck, Understanding the Barriers and Benefits of Business Solar⁵, clearly identified the value of peer case studies. ZEN was delighted to receive funding from the Noosa Biosphere Foundation Reserve to undertake the preparation of 10 case studies (including 5 videos) which clearly document the benefits to business from installing solar. These case studies⁶ can now be found on our website, and cover a wide range of business sectors. Under Anne Kennedy's

² <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/strategic-plan>

³ <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/>

⁴ <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/strategic-plan>

⁵ <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/strategic-plan>

⁶ <https://www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au/case-studies>

leadership, we had a very successful launch of the case studies, and thank the Noosa Parks Association for enabling use of their environment centre for the launch.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses and installers who participated in this project. We would also like to thank Sandra O’Sullivan and her associate Casey Harrigan for their excellent work in producing the case studies.

Once the Australian economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19, the business team plans to engage with business to promote these findings and encourage greater take up of solar by business.

Two of our great business case studies.
 Below: Noosa Marina
 Right: Di Henshall’s Interior Design and Resident Hero.



8. Race to Zero

Project Officer Dalia Mikhail has been spearheading a great partnership with the Queensland Education Department and several Noosa schools. They are Cooroy, Noosaville, Tewantin and Sunshine Beach State Schools. With funding from Noosa Council, Dalia has organised for the Wattwatchers meters to be installed at the schools, enabling real time read out of electricity consumption and production from solar panels installed at the school. This information will be integrated into the school curriculum.



9. Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Project officers Nadine Love and Dr. John Cronin have taken up the challenge of lobbying for Queensland government legislative change to enable Environmental Upgrade Agreements to finance installation of solar by business. Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales State governments have all enacted legislation which enables local government to borrow from a third party to be able to facilitate loans to business, with loans attached to the property, thus enabling lower interest rates and lengthy repayment periods⁷. ZEN believes this is an important initiative which would facilitate greater uptake by business of solar.

⁷ https://sustainableaustraliafund.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/TFE_eBOOK_FINAL1.pdf

10. Electric Vehicle Expo

The second Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo was held at the Noosa Australian Rules grounds on 22 June 2019. This was a great opportunity to showcase emerging low emission electric vehicles, including cars, bikes and scooters. We would like to thank all the exhibitors who supported this event. Once again the event attracted nearly 2000 visitors, who took the opportunity to find out more about EVs, and also have a trial ride on the bikes and scooters. A big team of volunteers ensured a great event, and I thank them for their willingness to help out. Our thanks also to Noosa Council which supported the event through its grant program, and our sponsor Hemisphere Electrical.



11.

We completed our schedule of our very popular Introduction to E-Bikes rides in 2019, with rides from Noosaville and Noosa Junction offered in February and March. Darren Walters from Ecotekk provided the bikes for our rides, and took a lot of trouble to make sure we could supply bikes that met riders' particular needs. Our thanks also to Noosa Council for its grant to support this project, highlighting a low emission transport alternative.



12. Cycling Skills Workshops



ZEN has a great partnership with cycling business Bike On Australia. We partnered with them to offer three cycling skills workshops in 2019, with funding support from Noosa Council. They ran a Cycle Maintenance workshop, a Cycle Skills session, and a Social Community Ride during the year. All these were well attended, and demonstrate the importance of encouraging cycling take up through building skills and confidence.

13. International Recognition

We were proud to see ZEN’s work documented in an article which appeared in 2019 in the international journal Sustainability, entitled “Towards Zero Emissions Noosa”⁸. Tireless ZEN volunteer Dr. Carina Anderson from CQU was one of the authors and we thank all authors for their diligence in documenting our work.

14. Low Emission Living Centre

In 2019 we tried an experiment with “pop up” shopfront premises in Noosa Junction, thanks to the generosity of local business owner Michael Tozer. We had to vacate the premises once they were leased, but it was a great opportunity to engage with the local community in a more direct way. Our thanks go to Michael for his vision and support for our work and to the volunteers who staffed the centre while it was open.



15. Partnerships

We are grateful to the many organisations which have supported ZEN and shared its goals and vision in 2019. We want to acknowledge Noosa Council, Tourism Noosa, CQ University, Noosa Junction Business Association and Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation for their continuing support and belief in ZEN. CQU’s continuing provision of meeting space is especially appreciated. In particular we wish to acknowledge the extraordinary collaboration in our efforts from Anne Nolan from Noosa Council, Dr. Carina Anderson from CQU and Juanita Bloomfield-Terry from Tourism Noosa.

16. Community Engagement



Dr. Carina Anderson volunteering at World Environment Day Festival in June.

ZEN participated in a number of community engagement events during 2019. We had an information stall at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council World Environment Day Festival in June, and the Rise to Meet the Tide concert in October. President Vivien Griffin also presented a paper at the National Clean Technologies Conference, and chaired a panel on Energy Sustainability in the Tourism Sector at the same event.

Over the year, ZEN also gave presentations to the Sustainable Tourism Reference Group, the Transport Steering Group, Enviroforum and Peregian Beach Community Association.

⁸ <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/17/4679/pdf>

17. Grants

We were successful in achieving a number of grants in 2019 which enabled ZEN to continue its work within the community. 2018 carry over and 2019 grants were:

Source	Amount	Description	Acquitted
Noosa Council	\$5000	Community Alliance grant (Jan-June 2019)	Yes
Noosa Council	\$18000	Community Alliance grant (2019-2021) Coordinator one day a week position	Still in progress
Noosa Council	\$8000	Race to Zero project	Still in progress
Noosa Council	\$14500	Repower Noosa project (carry over from 2018)	Yes
Noosa Council	\$5500	2019 Electric Vehicle Expo and cycling skills workshops	Yes
NBRF	\$10 000	Business Case Studies	Yes

18. Appointment of Coordinator

Our successful Community Alliance 3 year partnership grant from Noosa Council enabled ZEN to create a part-time (one day a week) Coordinator position. We were delighted to appoint Dalia Mikhail to this role in September 2019. Dalia is working to an Annual Plan which sets out her priorities for the 12 months. In her first 12 months, Dalia will focus primarily on supporting and growing rooftop solar take-up in the business sector.

President Vivien Griffin and Coordinator Dalia Mikhail at business presentation



19. Membership

Great efforts by ZEN volunteers have ensured a positive growth in membership numbers. In particular we want to acknowledge Liz Thornton, who has joined our team as our volunteer Membership Officer.

20. Advocacy

ZEN has representation on the following consultation groups:

- a) Noosa Council Sustainable Tourism Group; and
- b) Noosa Council Transport Steering Group

On both groups ZEN advocates for strategies which can assist reduce emissions in the tourism and transport sectors.

21. Financial

Please see Appendix A for the ZEN financial verification statement as required by the Office of Fair Trading.

22. Media

ZEN has been fortunate in receiving valuable media coverage over 2019. Please see Appendix B for examples.

APPENDIX A

Office of Fair Trading Financial Verification Statement



Our Ref: ZEROCOM 568729

24 February 2020

The Committee
Zero Emissions Noosa Inc
12 Dovetree Court
MARCUS BEACH QLD 4573

To whom it may concern,

**RE: VERIFICATION STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF
ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA INC**

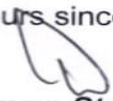
I wish to advise that we act as Auditors for Zero Emissions Noosa Inc and can confirm the following:

- The association is a *Level 2 Association for year ended 31 December 2019*.
- This statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Office of Fair Trading Association Financial Reporting Requirements.
- The verification has been undertaken independently.
- We have tested a small sample of transactions randomly to ensure adequate procedures are in place to record the association's activities for the year.
- I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and hold the professional designation of CA (Member No 48040).
- I have sighted the association's financial records and the financial records show that the association has bookkeeping processes in place to adequately record the association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities.

Please be advised, we have not conducted a full audit of the figures, and accordingly are not providing an audit statement. We have conducted a review of the income and expenditure figures only, using the procedures as outlined above.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


Wayne Staal CA
Holmans Pty Ltd



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS™
AUSTRALIA • NEW ZEALAND

Directors - Tony Rossiter CA, Wayne Staal CA, Sharee Webster CA
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APPENDIX B – 2019 Media Articles

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 noosaneews.com.au

Noosa Village goes solar

Shopping centre joins 21st century

Alan Lander

ANOTHER big green step in the fight against climate change and reduced carbon emissions has taken place in Noosa.

Noosa Village shopping centre, which occupies the block between Mary St and Gibson Rd in Noosaville, has installed a 250kW rooftop solar array across its roofs, providing a massive input into the centre's power use. That's the equivalent of powering 70 homes.

"This equates to 336 tonnes of CO2 removed from the atmosphere, or the equivalent of 122 cars being taken off the road each year," centre manager Ian McCosker said.

"Our system provides clean energy directly to our retailers through an embedded network. Over the next year we will continue to invest in Noosa Village with improvements to the carpark and customer amenities."

Centre owner Fort Street Real Estate is also set to roll out similar projects in its



BETTER FOR ALL: An aerial view of Noosa Village shopping centre with solar array.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

holdings, working with the Noosa Village system installer Energy Aware.

"While the system won't be able to supply the full load requirement of the centre during the peak hours in the middle of the day, it will be more than adequate at other times, perhaps even delivering some power back to the grid from time to time, Energy Aware spokesman Julian Hampton said.

Zero Emissions Noosa,

which has a goal of zero net community carbon emissions in Noosa Shire by 2026, welcomed the news.

"This is a fantastic commitment by this shopping centre, and I hope encourages other commercial operations in Noosa to take similar action," ZEN President Vivien Griffin said.

"Full marks to the Noosa Village owners for committing to make a

Full marks to the Noosa Village owners for committing to make a difference.

— Vivien Griffin

difference, and great that it is happening in the Noosa Biosphere."

Friday, March 1, 2019 noosaneews.com.au



BIKE BUZZ: Come and try electric bike travel in Noosa tomorrow. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Join the push for fewer cars

ZEN offering final electric bike session

ZERO Emissions Noosa is running its last Introduction to Electric Bike ride tomorrow, starting at 8am and finishing by 10am.

"We have been running these free two-hour group rides for the last eight months," said ZEN president Vivien Griffin.

"They are part of our commitment to more sustainable transport choices, and they have proven very popular. Several of our riders have gone on to purchase an e-bike, which is what it is all about. This ride will be the last we are running and we still have a few places left, but I would encourage people to register immediately by emailing zeroemissionsnoosa@gmail.com."

Ms Griffin said riders would head out from the Noosa Transit Centre in Noosa Junction along the Fenix Creek pathway, probably all the way to Noosa Civic and return.

"It is a lovely, safe ride

Around the globe, governments are subsidising electric bikes.

— Vivien Griffin

with a few hills to test out the electric boost capacity of the bikes," she said.

"We are grateful to Noosa Council for funding support, but we definitely want to see more initiatives from Noosa Council that focus on alternatives to the use of the private motor car all year round, not just at peak time. Transport emissions just from local residents comprise 30 per cent of Noosa's carbon emissions, so it is definitely time for council to step up, particularly since sustainable transport is one of their focus areas in their Cities Power Partnership pledge."

Ms Griffin said four local

councils in West Australia had trialled the use of electric bikes to replace private vehicle commuter journeys and achieved great reductions in kilometres travelled to work by car.

"Many governments around the globe are subsidising the purchase of electric bikes. Electric scooters should also be part of the mix," she said.

"Noosa Council transport policy says that council will provide infrastructure and services that are designed to give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport over private cars."

"Not we still see \$3 million allocated to the Ernest St roundabout to make it easier for cars to get around, while a proper bike path plan is still on the to-do list, let alone the construction. As former chair of the Council Bicycle Advisory Group, I definitely think a greater focus and resource allocation needs to be in place to do this," Ms Griffin said.

6 NEWS

YOUR SAY Do you cycle in Noosa regularly, or is it something you would consider?



My husband does road cycling regularly. I would but I think it's too dangerous on the roads here.
Julie Lucht, Castaways Beach



I have a bike but we've just moved and we need to find good areas for us to ride (as a family). Maybe the kids will ride to school.
Penny Morgan, Sunrise Beach



I don't ride a bike but if it was with a group of friends I might go out. It's safe enough around Noosa.
Grant Harvey, Doonan



I think there should be a bike station at Hastings St. Other regions do it. It would be helpful for tourists and help reduce traffic there.
Bridgett Christen, Tewantin

Go pedal in for free cycling workshops

Michele Sternberg

BIKE On is offering the first of two free cycling workshops next month, thanks to grants obtained from Noosa Council by Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN).

The 1.5-hour workshops, on Saturday, July 20, will be held at Girraween Sports Complex (Enlie Creek Rd, Noosa Heads) utilising the cycling infrastructure Noosa already has in place.

The workshops will be structured sessions run by accredited Cycle Skills Instructors from Bike On. They will be a relatively short format aimed at local residents who need that final bit of motivation to ride their bikes more frequently and with improved confidence.

The Basic Cycle Skills Workshop will be free for participants and aims to build confidence and improve cycling safety for men and women aged 18+ years who haven't ridden in a while and need a refresher. Bikes are also available to hire on request for anyone unable to transport their own.



ON YA BIKES: Bike On is offering two free cycling workshops in Noosa. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

This will be followed by a free Social Guided Ride on Saturday, August 3 from 9-11am. The aim of the ride is to encourage friends and families to ride together and for the Community to explore on the network of

local cycle paths. Jenny Blagdon, who attended last year's Basic Cycle Skills session, said she "felt much more confident about getting out" on her bike since the workshop.

"I have been for rides with my husband and have also used my bike to go to the local Tewantin shops rather than my car," Jenny said. "I am also planning a longer bike ride with friends." To book, contact Bike On: phone 5474 3322 or email info@bikeon.com.au.

Friday, June 7, 2019 noosaneews.com.au

Electric workhorses to hit Noosa

EV Expo to showcase growing diversity

THE Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo will be the first in Australia to showcase two innovative three-wheel electric delivery mopeds from e-Motion Concepts.

"We are delighted that eMC founder Wolfgang Roffman has chosen our event to reveal their next offering on to the Australian EV market," expo co-ordinator Vivien Griffin said.

"The world of EVs is no longer the exclusive province of Teslas and other high-end vehicles.

"We will be showcasing the enormous diversity of electric vehicles, from cars in more affordable price brackets, bikes, scooters and

now these practical three-wheel delivery mopeds.

"These vehicles are designed for the transport of goods in urban environments, and eMC is the exclusive importer, distributor and service agent for the vehicles.

"You will find both the CT-Cargo and the CT-Cube on show, and be able to talk with Wolfgang about their possibilities.

"Last year Wolfgang brought the three-wheeled Z-Bee to the expo, and this attracted huge interest. I am sure these new models will garner similar interest from event patrons."

Mr Roffmann said the

CT-KARGO and the CT-KUBE were perfectly suited to urban transport solutions.

"Known as the 'first and last mile', the Smart Electric Vehicles are designed to have a low environmental impact and a smaller footprint than traditional petrol vehicles, making transport movement more efficient, and also less impacted on the city environment."

Powered by high quality motors and fuelled by lithium batteries, with a range of up to 110km per charge and a top speed of 50km/h and together with a width of 1m and 0.8m respectively, they are perfect



EXPO OFFERING: E-motion offers urban transport solutions. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

for inner city last mile deliveries. The Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo is being held at

the Noosa Aussie Rules Grounds, Weyba Rd, Noosa-Heads on Saturday, June 22, 10-2pm. Entry is free and

the event is supported by a Noosa Council grant. Find further information at www.noosaevepo.com.



A green revolution

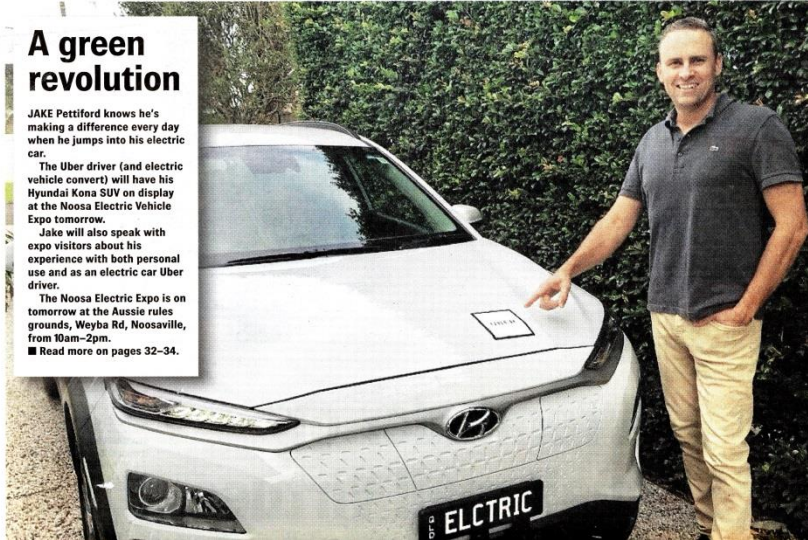
JAKE Pettiford knows he's making a difference every day when he jumps into his electric car.

The Uber driver (and electric vehicle convert) will have his Hyundai Kona SUV on display at the Noosa Electric Vehicle Expo tomorrow.

Jake will also speak with expo visitors about his experience with both his personal use and as an electric car Uber driver.

The Noosa Electric Expo is on tomorrow at the Aussie rules grounds, Weyba Rd, Noosaville, from 10am-2pm.

Read more on pages 32-34.



Noosa Today 27/6/19

EXPO SPARKS COMMUNITY INTEREST

BY MARGARET MACCOLL

Visitors travelled statewide and interstate to see the latest in electric vehicle technology at the Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN) organised Electric Vehicle Expo on Saturday while exhibitors journeyed even further with one urban transporter arriving by boat from China last week for its first showing in Australia.

Electric powered and with its small size the emotion concepts three-wheel cargo carrier offers solutions to problems of traffic congestion, emissions and parking, emotion concepts director Wolfgang Roffmann said.

ZEN president Vivien Griffin said the changing market was demonstrated by the range of vehicles on show at the expo from high end producers including Jaguar and Renault to privately built vehicles.

Daniel Keating brought his Voltrium electric personal mobility scooters from Melbourne to the expo. Daniel said people from all walks of life including tradies, campers and golfers, as it has a golf attachment, were interested in the vehicle.

While a motor bike and a racing kart created by engineers from two separate universities were also on show at the university.

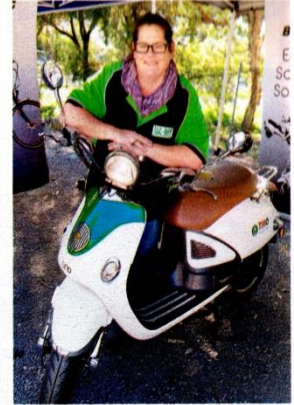
University of Queensland engineer Karl Richards said he designed and built his Ducavelo electric motor bike because he wanted to show "what could be done as an urban commuter". He said it was fun, had style and was low maintenance.

Engineer Mark Burridge built his electric racing kart as a project for Central Queensland University. Mark said the kart was "almost silent", accelerated quickly and was very fast. He said he believed it was the only fully electric racing kart in Australia and had attracted a lot of interest at the expo.

Ms Griffin was buoyed by the crowds that attended the event and said the exhibitors were very happy with the interest shown in their vehicles.



Wolfgang Roffmann and his emotion concept transport vehicle.



Simone Pfuhl of Bzooma electric scooters



Daniel Keating from Melbourne with his Voltrium electric cycle.



An electric Jaguar was a drawcard for visitors.



Carl Richards with his Ducavelo urban commuter.



Mark Burridge and his self-built electric racing kart.

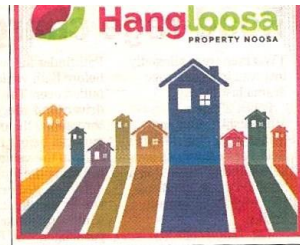


Australian Electric Vehicle Association member Wayne Bignell with his self-built electric Lotus.

Noosa news

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

5440 8000 noosanews.com.au



Call me King of the Mountain

WINNING FORM: Boaz Clark from Mapleton crosses in first place to win Pomona King of the Mountain. FULL STORY PAGE 6. PHOTO: WARREN LYNAM

TECH CRAZE HITS

PAGE 7

BLACK BELT AT 76

PAGE 36

SOLAR SAVIOUR

Peter Gardiner

Businesses in Noosa bank on push for zero emissions

HERE comes the sun to slash local power bills in Noosa by up to a third, 50 per cent or in some cases 100 per cent, as businesses profit from taking the zero emissions goals of the

community seriously. Zero Emissions Noosa yesterday launched a snapshot of 10 Noosa case studies from industries like tourism, manufacturing and

food service. "Whether they're an owner, manager, landlord, or even a tenant, everyone featured agreed that they would recommend solar

energy to other local businesses," ZEN spokeswoman Anne Kennedy said. The case studies feature local institutions including

Noosa Sun Motel, Belmondos Organic Market, and the Noosa Meat Centre. Across the board, the businesses have seen improvements in their

energy supply and security, and their electricity bill savings have ranged from a 33 per cent reduction to completely eradicating their bill and feeding back into the grid.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



SWTCH ON: Noosa business needs to sign up to solar.

PHOTO: ZERO EMISSIONS NOOSA

Banking on solar boom

FROM PAGE 1

Ms Kennedy said they were finding out investing in solar makes good sense. "Forward thinking Noosa businesses are turning to solar power with great results and they're keen for their peers to reap the benefits as well," she said. Noosaville-based Noosa Sun Motel manager Darren Keenan can now bank on the savings from solar. "We are very happy with

the savings. We have reduced our energy bills by 50 per cent and the solar system has already been paid off in just over two years," Mr Keenan said. "We use it to run the air-conditioning and lighting for all the guest rooms. "Without any direct control over how guests choose to use air-conditioning and electricity within the accommodation apartments, it made complete sense for the

business owners to install a solar system to help reduce electricity costs for the accommodation." The environmental impacts have been just as striking. Between the ten businesses, greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by more than 500 tonnes per year. "ZEN plans to work with local business associations to get the message out to all Noosa businesses. Solar is great for the business

bottom line, and we want to make the decision easy for local business," she said. "Whether they're an owner, manager, landlord, or even a tenant, everyone agreed that they would recommend solar energy to other local businesses." Overall business locally is lagging in the ZEN zero emissions road map tracker at just 13 per cent on target after two years. To find out more head to www.zeroemissionsnoosa.com.au.

Our solar savings winners

PETER GARDINER

A QUIET revolution is happening in Noosa's industrial estate right above our eyeline.

Smart Noosa businesses are getting on board with rooftop solar, more than doubling the uptake in the 14 months to June.

"The figures are absolutely extraordinary," said Zero Emissions Noosa president Vivien Griffin.

"The per cent of businesses with solar has gone from 5 per cent to 11.5 per cent in just 14 months.

"The number of businesses with solar has jumped from 145 to 353, and installed kilowatts rocketed from 2845 to 6659."

Mason Powell and Phil Fortington are business owners of Paint Right Noosa who are keen advocates of taking advantage of solar savings.

Ms Griffin said they were also a fine example of commercial tenants who approached their landlord to get permission to install a solar system at their own expense.

She said the partners were "so happy with the results they are now looking to install solar on two other premises on the Sunshine Coast".

"Of course, much more needs to be done," Ms Griffin said.

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 2019 NOOSANEWS.COM.AU

Know-how puts wheels in motion

CONTRIBUTED

NOOSA'S free cycling workshops wound up last weekend and have been declared an overwhelming success.

The aim of the workshops was to give residents a little bit of motivation to ride their bikes more often and with more confidence.

Bike On delivered the third and final instalment of the free cycling workshops, with a focus on bike maintenance and hands-on learning.

Tracey Wyatt from Bike On said it was awesome to see the response from the local community, with approximately 75 participants joining the three hands-on cycling workshops.

She said participants gained confidence in how to change a flat tyre and learnt the basics required to maintain their own bikes for safe riding.

The funding for the three cycling workshops came primarily from a grant obtained from Noosa Council by Zero Emissions Noosa (ZEN).

Workshops have been aimed at local residents who need that final bit of motivation to ride their bikes more frequently and with improved confidence.

Bike On has been contacted by several participants following the sessions for advice on routes to ride to work etc, and staff are always happy to assist where they can.

Both Tracey Wyatt from Bike On and Vivien Griffin from Zero Emissions Noosa are hopeful Noosa Council will



Mardi, Lach and William at the free cycling workshop that focused on bike maintenance. Picture: Contributed

consider funding similar workshops again next year as demand is still high.

The one-and-a-half hour cycling workshops were held at Girraween Sports Complex (Eenie Creek Rd, Noosa Heads) using some of the cycling infrastructure Noosa already has in place.

Noosa Council has received some positive feedback following the cycling workshops that have been held to date.

Participants have said it is changing their behaviour and influencing them to ride their bikes more frequently.

ZEN is working towards net zero carbon emissions within the Noosa Shire by 2026 and encouraging more people into cycling and away from vehicles is cornerstone to meeting these objectives and why ZEN sought the grant funding from Noosa Council for the workshops.

