



## **SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016/17**

CEFE were approached by a former Tathra resident and current Professor of Geography at Otago University, Dunedin NZ to capture the 10year history of CEFE on film. We enthusiastically responded and spent several weeks co-ordinating key CEFE members and those who have been significantly involved with CEFE since inception, including Dr Mike Kelly. We have been advised that the film is not quite finished for various reasons but will be, and we hope to launch it later this year.

CEFE has written a letter of support to the Evans Park Committee for construction of an amenities block on site at Kalaru, as requested by Committee member, Adam Wiggins. We have also offered to fund a small (eg, 1kW) rooftop solar system to power toilets and sensor lighting. This building is adjacent to the proposed Tathra Bega Safe Ride.

Following the great success of IMAGINE at Tathra, BVSC was most enthusiastic to have CEFE help with INSPIRE at Bermagui and IGNITE at Merimbula. I made contact with several enthusiastic residents in Bermagui but was advised by Council that infrastructure at Bermagui Treatment Plant needed upgrade and funds were unavailable following the extreme weather event which hit the Far South Coast in May/June 2016 causing severe damage to road and buildings in the Shire. The Merimbula project has also been put on hold until further notice.

In 2016 I represented CEFE at two conferences in Sydney - the MicroGrid Conference on 28<sup>th</sup> April and the Australian Energy Summit on July 28. CEFE is recognised and well respected within the Australian renewable energy community, as is ClearSky Investments – the not for profit community energy organisation and impact investor created by CEFE in 2015.

April 2016: CEFE/BVSC's joint venture project, the Tathra Community Solar Farm, received a Highly Commended award in the Local Government Awards for Excellence in Environmental Leadership and Sustainability, so congratulations to BVSC for having the foresight to support our IMAGINE proposal. From March 2015 to December 2017 CEFE has received a total of \$9,449.41 (from May 26/16 only) net proceeds from the solar farm for other solar projects.

CEFE continued our support of the 2016 Tathra Enduro, now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year. Enduro founding member Matthew Nott MC'd the presentations and he and I booked and chaperoned 12 musicians/groups who played in the bush for more than 1.5 hours to win substantial prizemoney donated to CEFE. Winners were the Japanese Drummers, Tim Holt on modern recorder, and the Clarke brother-and-sister vocal/guitar duo.

CEFE has hosted public Eden-Monaro Candidates Forums since 2006. booked our 2016 Forum for June 22 in Bermagui and ultimately joined forces with National Trust (FSC), National Parks Association (FSC) and Great Southern Forests who were planning a similar event for the same day at the Bermagui Community Centre. Despite a very wet and windy night, 120 residents attended to hear presentations by all the Candidates except Eden-Monaro incumbent, Dr Peter Hendy, who had a prior engagement.

Tathra Public School's 17kW solar project, estimated at \$22,000, is progressing well. CEFE arranged a fundraiser with Professor Will Steffan at the School in late June, helped organise a fundraising dance in October and together with proceeds from the solar farm and Tathra Enduro, we have donated just over \$11,000 to the School for this installation. School Principal Lisa Freedman has

applied to the Dept of Education for the remaining 50% of the cost. We are aiming for installation by June 30, 2017.

CEFE have supported the 1 Million Women “No plastic bags” program since inception and congratulate local co-ordinator Dorte Planert and all the wonderful volunteers who have made more than 1,400 bags from recycled fabrics and distributed them to retailers and shoppers throughout the Shire and on the Monaro.

In summary, the last 12 months have been productive for CEFE. We’ve done a lot of research on possible RE projects and RE products (eg, battery storage), and we are looking forward to developing these in 2017/18.

President Matthew Nott, Treasurer & Public Officer Warren Yates and I have worked together as a very strong Executive team since 2013. I sincerely thank them for their continuing dedication and support, and also thank those loyal long-term members who are always willing to give their time and expertise when called upon. My role is diverse and inspiring, and I’m looking forward to helping create another brilliant year for CEFE in 2017/18.

Prue Kelly

April 10, 2017.