



# Mackay West Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Mackay West Inc.

Chartered 1st of October 1959 / Club 17767 District 9560 / ABN 45 468 490754 / PO Box 610 Mackay QLD 4740  
Meets each Wednesday 6:00 PM for 6:15 PM at The Shamrock Hotel, 165 Nebo Road, Mackay QLD 4740



**John Deguara**  
President, Mackay West

## President's Message

This Wednesday is Club Assembly. This is an opportunity for members to exchange ideas on ways to improve all areas of our Club.

Aquila and her father Steve Fisher attended our meeting last Wednesday. Aquila is a student at Mackay Christian College. She gave a passionate talk about her NYSF experience. This year's 2 week forum consisted of one week of online sessions and one week in person events. NYSF gave Aquila an insight into university life and career opportunities. Aquila received a Certificate of Achievement for authoring the winning entry in the Reforming Waste STEM Challenge. Our Club is proud to be a supporter of the NYSF Program.

Tuesday 14th March Board Meeting.

Wednesday 22nd March Members are going to Hodge Industries for a vocational visit.

Wednesday 29th March our Club is hosting the Rotary Foundation Road Show.

The district 9560 Conference is being held in Longreach on 28th April to 30th April.

Rotary International Convention, Melbourne 27 May to 31 May 2023.

<https://rotarymelbourne2023.org/>

Could all members check the Weekly Bulletin with regards to Registration and Special Duties. If you are unable to make the meeting, please arrange with another member to take your place.

Imagine Rotary  
President John



**Jennifer Jones**

President, Rotary International



**John Hall**

Governor, District 9560



### Rotary Standard Dress Code: Business Casual.

Shirts & Sweaters  
in a variety of colors  
and patterns.

Slacks or  
dark jeans

Relaxed but  
elegant shoes.





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## THIS WEEK

### WEDNESDAY

- ★ Club Assembly

### THIS WEEK

#### Registration

Alan Keogh  
Dale Stebbeings

#### Special Duties

Brian Dean  
Ian Cruickshank

### NEXT WEEK

#### Registration

Grant Craig  
Ian Ritchie

#### Special Duties

Kevin Casey  
Chris Attard

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Wedding Anniversaries

March 4 - Faye & Des Sievers  
March 9 - Trevor & Pauline Townsend  
March 21- Eddie & Monique Woodwell

### Birthdays

March 14 - Ross Comben  
March 18 - Sina Barry  
March 18 - Bill Fraser  
March 19 - Leanne Drurey  
March 21 - Veronica Keogh  
March 23 - Lenore Dobbie  
March 23 - Heather Mason  
March 30 - Warren Benjamin

### Rotary Anniversaries For March

24 yrs - John Palmer  
4 yrs - Peter Thomas

## DIARY DATES MARCH - APRIL 2023

<b>Mar 15</b>	Club Assembly	<b>Mar 29</b>	Rotary Foundation Road Show Shamrock Larry & Andrea
<b>Mar 22</b>	Hodge Industries Harbour Vocational Trip	<b>Apr 13</b>	Bowls at North Mackay
<b>Mar 23</b>	Lunch Time BBQ - Paget Council	<b>Apr 25</b>	Anzac Day Two Up

## GOING TO MISS A MEETING?

Advise Jeff Sturdy by 2PM on Monday

Email: [secretary@mackaywestrotary.com.au](mailto:secretary@mackaywestrotary.com.au)

Or consider a make up at a local club or online

<b>MON</b>	6:30 PM 7:00 PM	Airlie Beach Pioneer Valley	Check: <a href="http://rotaryairliebeach.com">rotaryairliebeach.com</a> Mirani Hotel
<b>TUE</b>	6:15 PM 6:30 PM 7:15 PM	Mackay Proserpine Walkerston	Ocean International Hotel Metropole Hotel Proserpine Duke of Edinburgh Hotel
<b>WED</b>	5:45 PM 7:00 PM	Mackay West Mackay Northern Beaches. 2nd and 4th Wed of the month.	Shamrock Hotel Northern Beaches Bowls Club Rural View
<b>THU</b>	6:15 PM 6:30 PM	Mackay North Sarina	Goosies Sporting Club N. Mackay Sarina Motor Inn
<b>FRI</b>	7:00 AM 12:30 PM	Mackay Sunrise Port of Mackay	Ocean International Hotel Mackay Ocean International Hotel Mackay
<b>Any Day</b>	Any time	<b>Online at Rotary E-Club of Brindabella</b> <a href="http://www.rotarynews.info/club4390">www.rotarynews.info/club4390</a>	

Our Rotary Club of Mackay West Proudly Supports

## Local Charities, Events & Community Projects

International Rotary  
Programmes Foundation



The Australian Rotary  
Health Research Fund



The Mercy College  
Interact Club



Rotary Australia World  
Community Service



The National Youth Science Forum  
& Other Rotary Youth Programmes



[mackay.west@rotary9560.org](mailto:mackay.west@rotary9560.org)

[www.mackaywestrotary.org.au](http://www.mackaywestrotary.org.au)



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## Aquila Fisher - NYSF





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## Jeff Sturdy - Steve and Aquilia Fisher – President John






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 National Youth  
Science Forum

2023 NYSF Year 12 Program

## Certificate of Achievement

This certificate is awarded to

### Aquila Fisher

for authoring the winning entry in the  
Reforming Waste STEM Challenge  
set by Professor Veena Sahajwalla,  
titled

### The Clean-Energy Catch

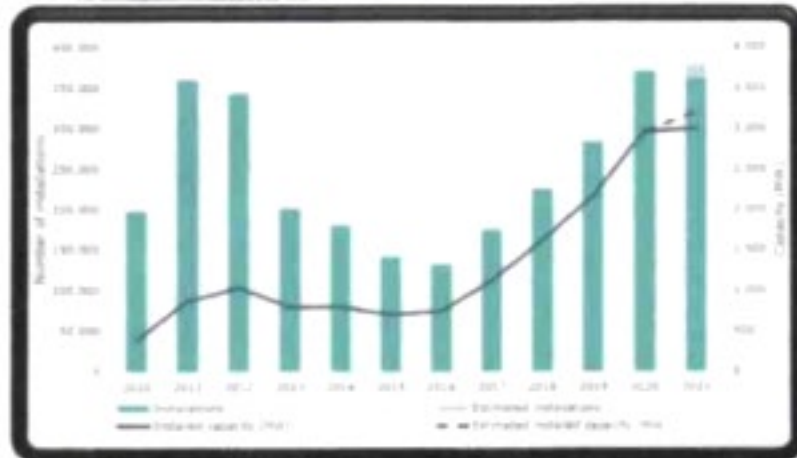
# The Clean-Energy Catch

Could Australia's top energy solution become one of our biggest problems?

## Background!

Solar energy is the fastest growing renewable energy source in Australia with over 3.3 million household systems installed by January 2022. Queensland, the top user, contributing to over 26% of this, with 915,000 installations. (Aus. Gov, Clean Energy Generator, 2022).

However, considering their average lifespan of 25 years and estimates of up to 78 million metric tons of panels reaching the end of their life by 2050, the process of materials of solar panels after their use is critical.



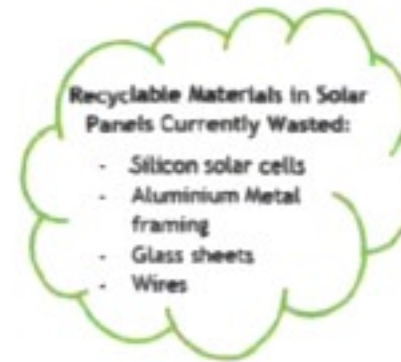
Solar Panel Demand Growth, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2022-02-08/record-amounts-of-rooftop-solar-installed-during-lockdown/10065818>



Solar Panel Material Composition, <https://www.solarchoice.net.au>

## Problem!

According to Cansta Blue Australia, up to 95% of solar panels can be recycled due to their main composition of easily recyclable materials. However, in Australia only up to 17% of a panel's weight is recycled and reclaimed. This results in the other 83% ending up in landfill, causing Solar panels to be the Fastest Growing E-waste Stream in Australia (Sustainability Victoria, 2022).



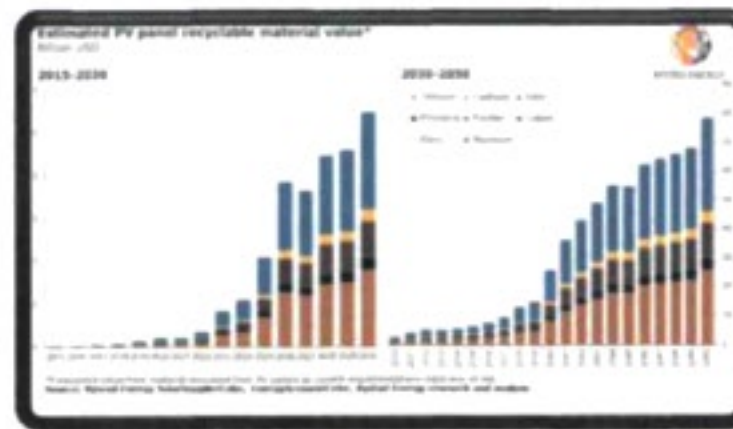
Solar Panel Recyclable Materials, <https://www.enetypaper.com>

## Effect!

PV panels contain toxic materials, like lead, that can cause environmental pollution, yet many are dumped in landfills when they die. They also contain valuable materials that could be reused to make new solar cells!

Despite Queensland's high contribution to solar panels amounts in Australia, North Queensland has next to 0 solar panel recycling and reclaiming schemes. When researching "what to do with dead solar panels in north Queensland" a repeating answer returns: "it's easy, give them to a scrap dealer or the government" who are estimated to waste 90% of the panels.

As a result of this wastage, masses of already depleting materials that are easily recyclable and vitally used are lost, toxins are leaked into natural ecosystems, and land (that is increasingly needed in a growing population) is being consumed by Panel Waste. As this problem continues to grow exponentially, a need for a solution in North Queensland becomes more urgent...



Estimated Solar Panel Material Value 2015-2050, NS found



SRCorp Recycling Process,

## Solution!

There are solar panel recycling services available in Australia. Solar Recovery Corporation is an Australian and European recycling scheme. Their mission, with partnership from European and NSW universities, is to recover 99+% materials from Solar PV Panels for recycling back into the manufacturing stream (SRCorp, 2023).

However, with the current substantial price difference between recycling and wasting solar panels, \$28 per module to recycle compared to \$1.38 per module to send to landfill, companies struggle to justify setting up more systems around the state (Energy Safe.com, 2021). For example, Solar Corporation only has 1 current station in north Queensland. In 2022, the Queensland Government invested in a \$2.1 billion waste and resource recovery package, including a \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund (Qld.gov, 2022). However, none of this money was invested directly into solar panel recycling.

The viable solution involves three sections - government funding, university research, and community effort. Designated Government funds need to be invested into PV Reclaiming schemes to set up more collection and transfer stations in North QLD. The easier access to recycling stations will encourage both household users, and solar panel companies to dispose dead panels sustainable, rather than to landfill. Additionally, Target 2 and 4 of Australia's National Waste Policy Action Plan aims to reduce waste generated in Australia by 10% by 2030 and significantly increase the use of recycled content by industry (NWP Action Plan, 2022). Investing in solar panel recycling in North QLD will help the Australian government achieve these goals, making it even more beneficial to all parties.

With Students attending universities with more conservational mindsets than ever, partnerships between QLD universities and reclaiming schemes is essential. Universities can lever the research as a practical selling point to students passionate in improving their local regions, and PV panel reclaiming companies utilise the research to financially improve their recycling process. Until cheaper solutions are achieved, dedicated Government funds will continue to be provided to ensure solar panel waste does not continue to increase

Finally, Solar panel consumers must be informed on the PV panel recycling process. A media and marketing strategy needs to be designed and implemented to inform businesses and the public on how to sustainably dispose of solar panels. The education and awareness campaign, and more access to disposal stations will also encourage users to do so. Community education is essential for the progression of a region, and only together can financially support, research, and consumer effort, make a positive impact on North Queensland, and reduce the state's Solar Panel Waste problem!

<b>PRESIDENT</b> John Deguara  <b>SECRETARY</b> Jeff Sturdy  <b>TREASURER</b> Peter Thomas	<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> Dale Stebbeings  <b>PRESIDENT NOMINEE</b> Jeff Sturdy	<b>DISTRICT GOVERNOR</b> John Hall  <b>ASSISTANT DISTRICT GOVERNOR</b> Andrea Pozza	<b>RI CHAIR</b> Ian Cruickshank  <b>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</b> Warren Benjamin	<b>SERGEANTS AT ARMS</b> Warren Benjamin - C Ross Walker Peter McFarlane Vic Mason
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<b>Club Administration Director</b> Kevin Casey	<b>Membership Director</b> Ross Comben	<b>Public Image Director</b> Bill Fraser	<b>Services Projects Director</b> Todd Shannon	<b>Rotary Foundation Director</b> Ian Cruickshank
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<b>Clubs Programs</b> Garry Dobbie - C Col Meng - VC Chris Attard Bill Fraser Ian Ritchie Warren Benjamin Steve Taylor  <b>Insurance</b> Trevor Townsend  <b>Risk Management</b> Des Sievers  <b>Safety</b> Des Sievers  <b>Social Events</b> Dale Stebbeings - C Warren Benjamin John Deguara Ross Walker  <b>History</b> Grant Craig - C Ian Ritchie John Lacey	<b>Recruitment &amp; Retention</b> Ross Walker - C Michael Curtin - VC Des Sievers Garry Dobbie Trevor Townsend  <b>New Member Orientation</b> Col Meng - C Eric Barry John Lacey Doug Neville  <b>Diversity</b> Peter Sheedy - C John Palmer  <b>Duty Roster</b> Eric Barry - C Jim Brown David Dunkley  <b>Honorary Members</b> Brendan Gunning	<b>Media Relations, Advertising &amp; Marketing</b> Peter McFarlane - C Ross Walker - VC Eddie Woodwell Todd Shannon Nic Stuart  <b>Web &amp; Social Media</b> Todd Shannon - C Eddie Woodwell Ross Walker Dale Stebbeings  <b>Club Communications</b> Dale Stebbeings - C Ross Walker - VC Vic Mason Ian Cruickshank  <b>Christmas Fair</b> Colin Meng - C Ross Walker - VC Michael Curtin Dale Stebbeings Alan Keogh Ross Comben	<b>Community Projects</b> Warren Benjamin - C Ian Ritchie - VC Trevor Townsend Brian Dean  <b>Vocational</b> Des Sievers - C Peter McFarlane - VC Bill Cleary Ross Walker  <b>Youth Services &amp; Interact</b> Garry Dobbie - C Geoff Morgan - VC Peter McFarlane Chris Attard Doug Neville Bill Cleary  <b>Fundraising BBQ</b> Des Sievers - C Kevin Casey - VC Peter Sheedy Trevor Townsend Warren Benjamin Grant Craig	<b>Fundraising Grants &amp; Grants</b> John Palmer - C Grant Craig - VC Garry Dobbie Michael Curtin Ross Walker Warren Benjamin  <b>Polio &amp; Rotary Health</b> Brian Dean - C David Dunkley Eric Barry  <b>3 Minute Talk</b> Garn Woodman - C Bill Cleary Peter Sheedy  <b>International Projects</b> Ian Ritchie - C Grant Craig - VC Steve Taylor John Palmer Vic Mason  <b>Swap Meet</b> John Palmer - C Steve Taylor - VC Todd Shannon Ian Cruickshank Bill Fraser Peter McFarlane
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