

# Double Glaze Matters

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## Bushfire Support

When writing this newsletter my thoughts go out to those caught up in the bushfires. It must be terrifying especially with the thought this may be the new norm.

I hope you have all stayed safe and haven't been too impacted by the fires and the smoke. I spent 3 days at Venus Bay and found the smoke oppres-

### Araluen Solar Panels

Energy This Month = 3.3 Mwh = \$500

Total Energy = 75.0 Mwh = \$11,500

sive and filled me with foreboding. How much worse it must be for those closer to the fires and facing it for weeks on end.



*Franciscus Henri's contribution*

## The Autumn Rebellion

Its on again! Extinction Rebellion looks like having a week of action from 2nd May to the 9th. If you want to be involved please get back to me. Being arrested is totally optional!

## The Bush Fires

When Scott Morrison came out and said they would review the causes and impacts of the bush fires, I had some hope. Maybe he would consider trying to do more fighting Climate change.

These hopes were dashed last week when he came out with the announcement that any actions would be directed at minimising the impact of climate change, not trying to solve it.

The problem is that such an approach makes economic sense. If Australia spends a billion dollars on mitigating the effects of climate change Australians obtain the full benefit of that money.

By contrast if Australia spends a billion dollars on stopping climate change, the whole world benefits and we receive only a small benefit ourselves. To make it worthwhile we have to convince other countries to match our contribution and then we all reap the benefit of our investment.

But that would take leadership.

The interesting thing is that the world is starting to notice Australia's lack of support for climate change action. There has been a campaign of protests outside Australian embassies world wide. And the European community is now talking about trade restrictions. If Australia doesn't have a price on carbon, then Australian products will be charged a carbon tariff to compensate.

I suspect it is only when our government sees that our polices are impacting us internationally that they may change

## Solar Panels and Hot Water

This is something I have talked about before, but it is really important when considering solar panels and hot water services.

By far the best investment that anyone can make is solar panels. Assuming you don't have a problem such as shading, the cost for 4 kw will be around \$5,000. It will generate over 6,000 kwh a year. If you used all the power yourself, this would save 30 cents per kwh, or \$1,800, paying it off in 3 years.

Even if you exported it all, at 11 cents per kwh or \$660 a year, you would pay it off in 8 years.

So, to increase your savings, you need to boost your usage. The best way to do this is to use an electric heat pump to heat your hot water. If you put it on a timer that works between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, most of your heating will be done using solar power from your panels.

Another way to boost your usage is to turn on your reverse cycle air conditioner. In summer you can use it for free. In winter it is a little harder. When the sun is shining, you probably don't need heating. But there is value in heating your house during the day so that you don't need to heat it in the evening.

And remember, reverse cycle air conditioners are a lot more efficient than the little portable electric heaters. Electric heaters generate 1 kw of heat for 1 kw of power used. Reverse cycle air conditioners generate 4 kw of heat for 1 kw of power used.