



**Title:** Be the solution, not the pollution

**Category:** Sustainability

**Club Name:** Hornsby RSL Club

**Entrant:** Daisy Brown

- 1. Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
  - a. The program/project/cause objectives**
  - b. The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
  - c. A timeline of activities/events**
  - d. Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

a) Since 2008, Hornsby RSL Club has embarked on several environmental initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint of operating a large Club and to contribute to the sustainability and protection of the environment around us for future generations.

Whilst many of these initiatives may not be as noticeable by the public, they have contributed greatly to well-being of the planet we live in and to the social standing within the community of Hornsby and its surrounds.

Hornsby RSL Club is striving to be part of the solution, not the pollution.

b) Hornsby RSL Club has invested significant funds to our commitment to sustainability. Some investments have been large one-off projects, such as the installation of solar, whereas others are an ongoing investment such as the continuing upgrade of LED lights.

c) BottleCycler: Hornsby RSL Club goes through over 2,000 glass bottles weekly. BottleCycler allows us to crush glass bottles and reduce our glass waste volume by 80%. Almost all glass that is processed through our BottleCycler machines is then recycled back into a new glass container, and never goes to landfill. Reduced glass volume results in fewer trucks, less petrol, less CO2 pollution, and less noise pollution.

Solar Energy Generation: In 2014 the Club invested in 250 solar panels located on the roof space of Hornsby RSL Club delivering 100kWH of green energy to the Club. 100% of this energy is used by the



Club. Since 2014 the Club has generated over 850Mwh of energy. We have saved significantly over 200 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions that is the equivalent of planting over 700 trees.

**Roof Solar Protection - SkyCool:** SkyCool™ is a solar heat management coating system, providing remarkable cooling to the entire building resulting in greatly increased interior comfort and very substantial energy saving on air conditioning. Scientifically, SkyCool achieves its cooling effect by reflecting up to 90% of the sun's heat from the roof and radiating 96% of the remaining heat reaching the roof from within the building – day and night. The ongoing environmental savings of this product contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 11 tonnes per month.

**EP&T Energy Monitoring and Analytics:** In 2014, the Club integrated an energy monitoring system with the installation of both electrical and gas meters throughout the Club to analyse the energy usage 24 hours a day. The system highlights improved control strategies, increased use, extended use, or energy anomalies against a baseline that the Club can then take corrective action to reduce the cost of energy in both monetary and energy use terms. Overall, the Club has realised more than a 10% reduction in energy use with a cumulative saving of over 1,730 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. The Club has recently expanded the technology to incorporate water monitoring in a bid to improve water use efficiency.

**The PulpMaster – Food Recycling:** In 2017 the Club introduced a food recycling system that digests food waste and converts it to a liquid that is then transported away to be made into garden fertilisers. Each year, the Club's food waste is converted into 37,675L of garden fertiliser which is the equivalent of saving 562 trolleys of food sent to landfill each year. This also saves 51,755 dishwasher cycles each year.

**Plastic Straws:** In August 2018 Hornsby RSL Club phased out single use plastic straws with a campaign called The Final Straw. This explained that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish. This decision was made and implemented 4 years before single use plastic straws were banned in NSW.

**LED Light Upgrade:** Where possible, the Club has replaced existing lighting with energy efficient and cost saving LED Lighting. These lights consume a significantly lower amount of than conventional filament or halogen lighting fixtures. In May 2019, the Club upgraded the carpark and dock area lighting with LED's and saves the Club over 150 tonnes of emissions each year in these areas alone.

**Waterless Urinals:** With any renovations, new amenities include waterless urinals to reduce the amount of water used for flushing. The Club now only has two flushing urinals, but these are now fitted with motion sensors to only flush with bathroom traffic. In June 2019, these units were



retrofitted with further water saving devices reducing the need to rely on chemicals. These waterless urinals have reduced water consumption of the Club by approximately 30%.

**Water Harvesting:** In 2019 the Club introduced water harvesting tanks. These 3 large tanks are fed from the roof and hold roughly 25,000L of content to be harvested elsewhere. The contents of these tanks assist with the daily cleaning of back of house areas.

**Paperless Technologies:** Since 2019, the Club has been exploring technological advancements to implement within the business, reducing the need for paper. Initially, more than 50% of paper used for promotions was replaced with digital entries, with this having increased to 70% since then. Additionally, in more recent years, items such as digital QR codes for menus and digital membership cards have been introduced to further reduce our carbon footprint.

**Single-use Plastics:** In 2021, the Club began to phase out plastic stirrers as well as plastic cups and plates. Wooden stirrers are now used, and reusable polycarbonate drinkware for use when glass is not appropriate. 37UM reusable bags have been used since 2021 for items that require a plastic bag.

**Other Recycling:** All cardboard, paper, aluminum cans, toner and ink cartridges, and cooking oil is recycled in the Club's dock.

d) Hornsby RSL Club's commitment to sustainability has spanned over 15 years and continues to be a priority as we make plans for future developments and expansions.

With expansions to facilities including our carpark on the horizon, several sustainability projects are being considered including EV charging. Additionally, in 2023 the Club is exploring technologies to aim to have Member Services in a minimum 90% paper-free environment. This will mean investing in technology to allow the membership sign-up process to be 100% digital.

**2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.**

**In your answer, summarise:**

- a. **How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. **Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

a) The Club's commitment to sustainability stemmed from the realisation for the need to be leaders in this space. As one of the largest businesses in our local area, the Club saw the opportunity to

commit to maintaining the quality of life for future generations by introducing a sustainability policy into the business.

From here, management started exploring the ways we could improve our environment, economic and social responsibility, and sustainability and continue to explore technological advancements to see what other changes can be made to support our commitment. The Club continues to consider sustainable and environmentally friendly options in all choices that are made.

b) Hornsby RSL Club's commitment to sustainability incorporates an awareness of the social, economic and environmental risks and responsibilities associated with operating a large Club. Hornsby RSL Club is aware of the role we play in our community of Hornsby, and the responsibilities we all have in protecting the environment for future generations.

The Club's commitment to sustainability will ensure –

- increased efficiencies in waste management and recycling
- us striving for a more efficient use of energy and water resources
- sustainable principles are applied to all relevant decisions
- us meeting the challenge of rising prices expected for resources and waste management
- us openly communicating our policies and practices to interested parties

We are lucky to be situated in a beautiful shire where 70% of the land is bushland, 15% if the land is rural, 5% of the land is open space, meaning only 10% of the land us urban. We have 1,328km of rivers and creeks, and 1,000 native plant species. However, there is still 62,893 tonnes of waste being generated in households alone, with an alarming 45% of this waste able to be diverted from landfill.

This is why it is so important that business like Club's, who are running large-scale hospitality venues across NSW, to lead the way in creating a sustainable business model across all Club operations. We remain committed to supporting this need as we continue to expand Club facilities.

We hope to inspire other businesses in the area to commit to a more sustainable future in the Hornsby Shire. It is important to work towards an innovative and environmentally sustainable Shire with resilient, diverse, and thriving communities and ecosystems, which is a goal that our local council remains committed to.

### **3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.**

Just a few highlights of the positive impact the Club has had as part of our commitment to sustainability include:

- Generating over 850Mwh of energy and saving well over 200 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions through solar
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 11 tonnes per month through the SkyCool technology
- 10% energy reductions and the equivalent of over 5,900 plants being planted through our energy monitoring system



- Over 2,000 bottles per week being crushed and recycled into new glass containers as opposed to going to landfill
- Over 37,000L of garden fertiliser created from recycled food waste through the PulpMaster machines
- Single-use plastic straws phased out 4 years prior to being mandated
- 150 tonnes of emissions saved each year due to LED lighting in Club carpark and dock areas alone
- Waterless urinals reducing water consumption of the Club by 30%
- 25,000L of rainwater captured and used for daily cleaning of Club
- Digital technology initiatives to reduce receipt paper usage
- 37UM reusable bags implemented for limited bag needs within Club
- Single-use plastics such as stirrers and cups replaced with environmentally friendly alternatives prior to 2022 mandate
- Recycling program for cooking oil, cardboard and paper, aluminum can, and toner and ink cartridges to ensure proper disposal of waste

The Club genuinely believes that our commitment to preserving the natural environment for future generations is having a genuine, lasting impact on not only the environment, but also the overall wellbeing of the people in our community. We will continue furthering our contribution to a better, more sustainable future for all, and hope that others will also aspire to be part of the solution moving forward, not the pollution.

**4. Add any credits here (optional).**

**5. Supporting material:**

- Pulp Master Report – PDF
- Sample EP&T Report – PDF
- Straw Campaign - JPEG
- Sustainability Solar 1 – JPEG
- Sustainability Solar 2 – JPEG