

## SWANSEA GOES SOLAR

### **Community initiative achieves a great deal**

At a public meeting in Swansea Town Hall last Monday, members of the community decided to install photo voltaic cells (solar panels) on roofs on the East Coast to feed electricity back into the grid. Following three months of lobbying and negotiation with a range of suppliers two proposals were put to this second meeting, and from a small initial group of about 10 there are now in excess of 40 people who have expressed a desire to go solar. The group has chosen **JESSUPS Retravisoin "Solar Squad"**, a long standing Tasmanian business based in Launceston, under John Thirgoods ownership since 1984, and in addition to choosing Tasmanian installers, the meeting agreed unanimously to support Australian industry and jobs by selecting Australian made components in the 2 kw inverter B.P. P.V. package.

Residents have expressed a range of reasons for going solar and supporting the group decision to install a 1kw system with an inverter that can be upgraded to 2kw yet also the power of the group saw this option cheaper than a straight 1 kw system. These include saving money on their power bill (one quarter reduction on average with a 1kw system), reducing the impact on the environment, supporting local and Australian jobs and businesses, and encouraging research and development of new and better technology. In addition the group members were encouraged to sign a petition to the federal government to establish a National Solar Energy Feed in Tariff, which if agreed to would likely multiply the financial benefits to solar users several times over.

For the environmentally minded a 1kw system in Tasmania will produce on average 1330kw per year and will reduce CO2 output by 2 Tonnes a year, and multiplying that by the number of installations means that the low income private sector will be doing what the high energy government buildings are not!

This initiative was originally set in motion by people who already have solar systems up and running, and the hard work and energy put in by Keith and Stephen Breheny, Nicky Meeson and Glen Maddox for purely community and environmental reasons cannot be underestimated. Momentum was helped by the fact that the \$8000 Government rebate ends on June 30th this year, and **Jessups Retravision Solar Squad** (who reliably can state that an exciting development in partnership with Aurora will be announce by Aurora on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Stay posted!) Jessups are assisting enormously by taking on what would normally be some months wait for the reimbursement of this rebate. The results of this is that those interested in the scheme have only to find the net amount after rebates, instead of upwards of \$12000 plus then waiting months to get the \$8,000 rebate back themselves.

Anybody feeling inspired to join us should contact **Jessups Retravision Solar Squad** on 6331 6933/1300 552 785