

## Media Release

26 March 2017

# GLOUCESTER HOSTS SUSTAINABLE FUTURES CONVENTION

Well over 200 delegates from Gloucester and various parts of Australia packed the Gloucester High School auditorium for the second Sustainable Futures Convention sponsored by Groundswell Gloucester. The convention is held every two years and this year was held over two days on 25 and 26 March and provided a boost to many local businesses.

Those attending heard about the exciting future economic and social opportunities and challenges for towns like Gloucester in a changing world.

Dr Jim Frazier, famous photographer for David Attenborough, talked about the need to face up to, and deal with, the many huge environmental issues facing the planet and Amanda Cahill, of the Centre for Social Change, spoke about "The Next Economy".

As well as several inspiring talks, delegates were able to choose to attend numerous workshops dealing with such issues as keeping rural communities resilient, maintaining good soil systems, living in a sustainable way, dealing with changing economies, how to influence the political process, the arts and culture in rural communities and community advocacy.

At the last convention in 2015 a body known as Energise Gloucester was formed and David Marston gave an inspiring talk about the progress being made to assist Gloucester residents and businesses transition to solar power and how to reduce their power consumption. More information about this exciting project can be obtained by visiting their website at [www.energisegloucester.org](http://www.energisegloucester.org) or on Facebook. Their present exciting project is to provide solar power for the Bucketts Way Neighbourhood Group.

The purpose of the convention is to help people look towards and deal with a positive but sustainable future as the world's economies transitions from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The conference ended with an inspiring talk by Joanne McCarthy from the Newcastle Herald. It was Joanne's courageous expose of child abuse in the Catholic Church which ultimately led to the present Royal Commission.

Many photographs of the event are available on the Sustainable Futures Gloucester Facebook page