



# JOIN THE CENTURY OF SOLAR

A Year of Virtual Celebration

## SWC50-The Century of Solar Virtual Conference Newsletter – July 2020

### Focus on Australia



Since the first ISES international conference was held in Melbourne in 1970, this newsletter focuses on Australia. The Australia- New Zealand Section (ANZES), formed in 1962, was the first ISES Section outside of the USA. In 1970, when the Board of the Solar Energy Society (SES) agreed to change

its name to the International Solar Energy Society, the headquarters of ISES was established in Melbourne, Australia, with the original office continuing in the U.S. to support the American Solar Energy Society. Frank Hogg (from Australia) was the secretary-treasurer until 1985. Wall Read took over the role until 1995 when the headquarters moved from Australia to its present location in Freiburg, Germany.

### Australian ISES Presidents

ISES has had five Presidents from Australia:



**Roger Morse**  
1969 - 1971



**Bill Charters**  
1979 - 1980



**Wall Read**  
1983 - 1984



**David Mills**  
1997 - 1999



**Monica Oliphant**  
2007 - 2009

### What is SWC50 – The Century of Solar?

In 1970 solar research pioneers met at the first International Solar Energy Society (ISES) Conference in Melbourne Australia. ISES is commemorating this first Solar World Conference with a special 50th Anniversary Virtual Conference, called the Solar World Congress at 50 (SWC50).

During these past 50 years solar energy has grown from being emerging technologies to a vibrant industry. The Century of Solar highlights the transformation in the global energy sector that has taken place since the first Solar World Congress in 1970 and looks forward to the next 50 years when solar energy will be a major cornerstone of the global energy system. While the focus of the Century of Solar is on the evolution of solar energy, the importance of other renewable energy sources working together to reach the 100% renewable energy world goal will be a central theme.

**SWC50 - The Century of Solar** is about the people: researchers, industry players, policy makers, and leaders of NGOs and Non-profit organizations who have all contributed to make solar energy the fastest growing contributor to new electricity capacity.

**SWC50 Programme:** The SWC50 virtual conference will be held on 3 - 4 December 2020, with two follow up webinars in 2021 and a final session at the ISES Solar World Congress 2021 in New Delhi in October 2021

## ISES Headquarters- Melbourne 1970-1995

In 1970 the ISES headquarters moved from the USA to Melbourne, Australia. Frank Hogg (from Australia) was the secretary-treasurer until 1985. Wal Read took over the role until 1995 when the headquarters moved from to its present location in Freiburg, Germany.



The Australian HQ staff in 1995 in their offices at the Chisholm Institute of Technology in Caulfield, in Melbourne. Wal Read sits in front of Peg Bilston (left), another staff member, and Barbara Rozen (right). Peg and Wal served ISES for 24 years at ISES HQ.

## ISES Conferences in Australia

Year	Location	Overview
1970	Melbourne	1970 International Solar Energy Society Conference Approx. 190 participants; 62 papers General Chair: R. N. Morse; Conf. Organizer: F. G. Hogg
1983	Perth	Solar World Congress 1000 participants (60 countries) 560 papers and 87 industry Exhibitors from 15 countries. Conference Chair: Wal Read
2001	Adelaide	Theme: Bring Solar Down to Earth 600 participants (57 countries) Conference Chair: Professor Wasim Saman

## Australian Pioneers Pre 1980

Each month the newsletters will have a brief article on people involved with renewable energy prior to 1980. These people will come from research and/or industry. However, it is impossible in a short couple of paragraphs each month over the next 18 months to cover the thousands who have contributed to the renewable energy world prior to 1980. This month to continue the Australian focus we include two ISES past presidents and three individual who started their solar retail companies in the 1970's

### Roger Morse

Roger Morse was born in 1914 and passed away in 2003. He attended the conference in Arizona in 1955. In 1964 he became a board member in 1964 when AFASE became the Solar Energy Society (SES). He was elected Vice President in 1967, President in 1969 and was chair of the Melbourne conference in 1970. He was the first chair of the first international section of the society, the Australian- New Zealand section formed in 1962.

Roger Morse was educated at Sydney University in Australia and had a half decade of experience in industry before his service with the Australian army in Papua-New Guinea during World War II. He was responsible for establishing the Engineering Section—later to become the Division of Mechanical Engineering—of CSIRO, and led its work on air conditioning, refrigeration, and solar energy applications. He was largely responsible for the work that led to development of the solar water heater industry in Australia. A very practical, hands-on engineer, he could see in a minute what constituted a good or bad solar heater design.

### Monica Oliphant

Monica Oliphant played a very active role in ANZSES and AUSES; she joined the ISES board in 1997 and is still a member; and she was president of ISES in 2007-2009.

Monica first became interested in renewable energy, and in particular solar energy, when she worked at Flinders University on solar thermal energy research from 1977 to 1981. As a senior research scientist with Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) from 1981 to 2000, she undertook ground-breaking research into the role of renewable energy, energy efficiency and consumer behaviour in demand management for power networks. Also, she was involved in the SA 30 site wind resource monitoring program of 1984 -1988. The collected data showed where high wind energy potential sites existed and enabled developers to get off to a quick start in 2003 once State and Federal subsidies became available. Her policy recommendations were always supported by sound research and her work was influential in electricity utilities across Australia allowing solar and wind power to be connected to the grid. She was a pioneer in building-integrated photovoltaics in Australia, through an ETSA-managed research, development and demonstration project.

### **John Paton**

In the early 1970s John Paton was looking to transition from Plessey Rola and took up a position with a start up solar hot water company in Melbourne. Shortly after he purchased the company and renamed it Solar Charge. He imported the 'new PV panels' from Solarex in the USA before they were manufacturing in Sydney, and was manufacturing and selling a solar pool controller for years. John designed some of the very first off-grid solar power systems in Victoria including the award-winning Boss house system in Pearcedale in 1978.

Solar Charge went on to be the longest serving Solarex / BP Solar company in the world until BP Solar closed its doors. Currently with a third owner, Solar Charge is still trading some 47 years later as a niche solar business in Melbourne.

### **Stephen Ingrouille**

In 1976, Stephen Ingrouille called a public meeting in Carlton, Melbourne, which led to the establishment of a community group called the Alternative Technology Co-operative (later named Renew). The goals, in promoting renewable energy, were to establish a newsletter, a magazine, a radio program, a workshop and a retail outlet. All of these goals were achieved, with the retail outlet becoming a private business. Going Solar started in 1978 and in 1979 was one of the four founding members of the Appropriate Technology Retailers Association of Australia (ATRAA).

By the early 1980s Going Solar had become a leading wholesaler in Victoria, helping to establish the PV industry with dealer training nights, mentoring, advocacy, and through promoting industry awards for 'best practice'. Stephen also taught Solar Hot Water (Certificate IV) at three TAFE colleges and tutored on renewables with the Council of Adult Education for over 10 years.

In 1998 Going Solar, with the assistance of the dealer network, held a Stainable Living Fair at Musk in Central Victoria. This led to the establishment of the Sustainable Living Foundation and the Sustainable Living Festivals. In August 2006 Stephen won the Melbourne Award which recognised thirty years of 'Contribution to Environment'. With changes in the PV industry Going Solar returned to retail, focusing on PV and Solar Hot Water.

In February 2020, after almost 42 years at the helm, Stephen retired when Going Solar was sold to one of their contract installers. Renew, the Sustainable Living Foundation, the Sustainable Living Festivals and Going Solar Pty Ltd all continue to this day.

### **Brian England**

Brian England set up his current business, Self Sufficiency Supplies, in 1976 when the industry was in its infancy. Initially solar installs were mainly solar hot water but as the cost of PV fell from \$100/Watt to \$40/Watt to \$15/Watt, PV progressively became more viable, especially for remote properties. Also sold were wind generators, hydroelectric generators and a large range of 'back to the land' equipment for rural autonomy.

Brian started another business (Powerstore Pty Ltd) in the 80's designing, manufacturing, retailing and wholesaling inverter/chargers, solar charge controllers and battery chargers, which became a joint venture in China in 1989.

Brian was Co-founder of ATRAA (Appropriate Technology Retailers Association of Australia) (1979). ATRAA was involved in industry representation through its various incarnations of SEIAA (Solar Energy Industry Association of Australia), BCSE (Australian Business Council for Sustainable Energy) and CEC (Clean Energy Council). Currently National Chairman of SEIA (Solar Energy Industries Association).

**ISES is calling for submissions of the names of individuals covering the following two categories:**

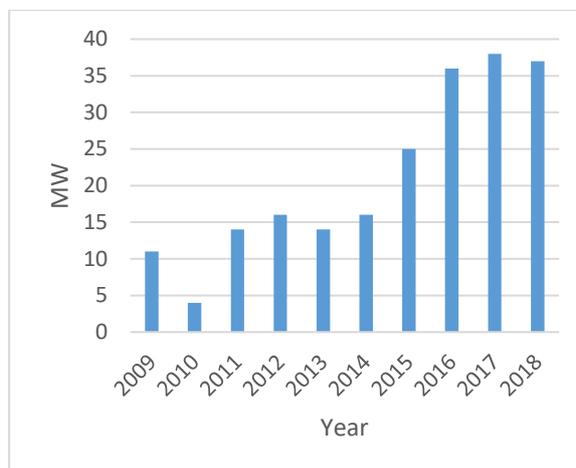
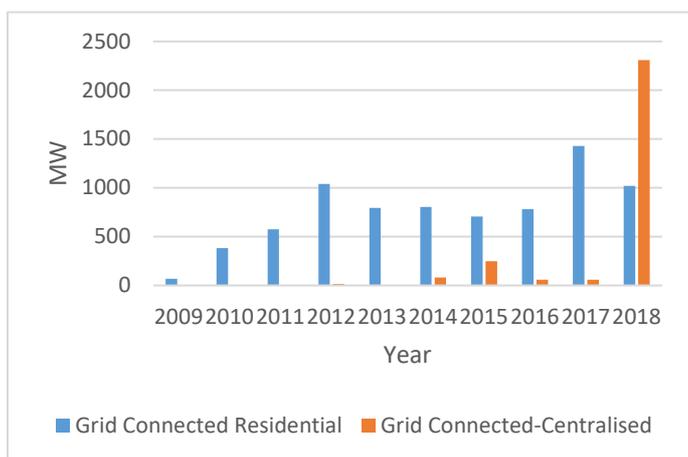
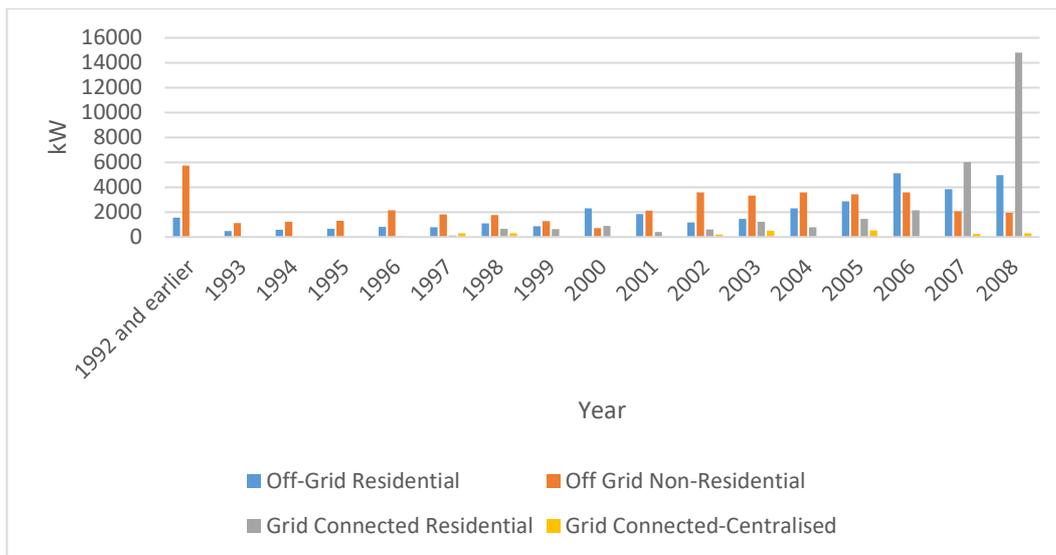
1. **Research Pioneers:** Individuals who started their research in 1995 or earlier.
2. **Industry Pioneers:** Individuals who actively started working in or with the renewable energy industry in 1995 or earlier.

Names and information can be [submitted online](#). Individuals can submit on behalf of themselves or on behalf of someone else, particular those who might have passed away.

**Partners and Supporters**

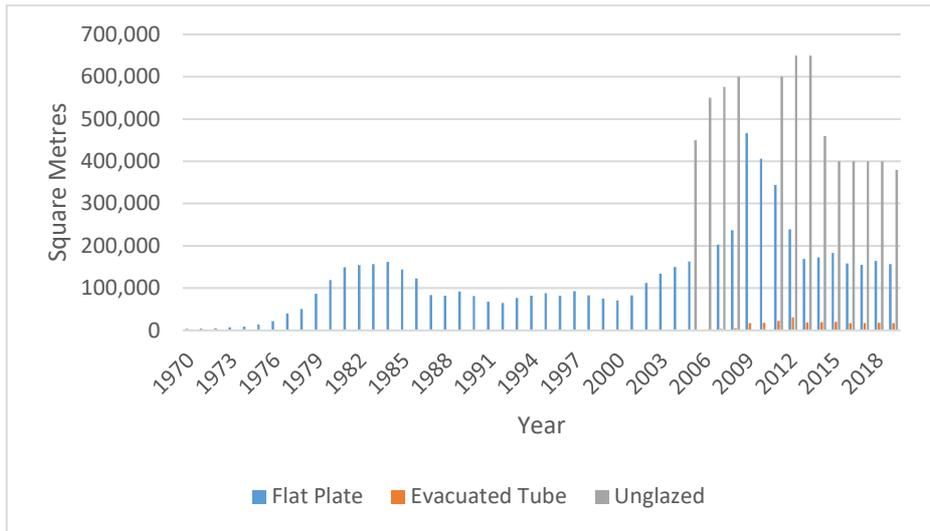
There are currently 1 partner and 18 supporters of SWC50. These can be found on the website [swc50.org](http://swc50.org)

**Australia Growth in Solar Photovoltaics (PV)**



Source: IEA PVPS Trends Reports

### Solar Hot Water



Source: David Ferrari - data prepared for Solar Heat Worldwide