The WEEKLY TIMES
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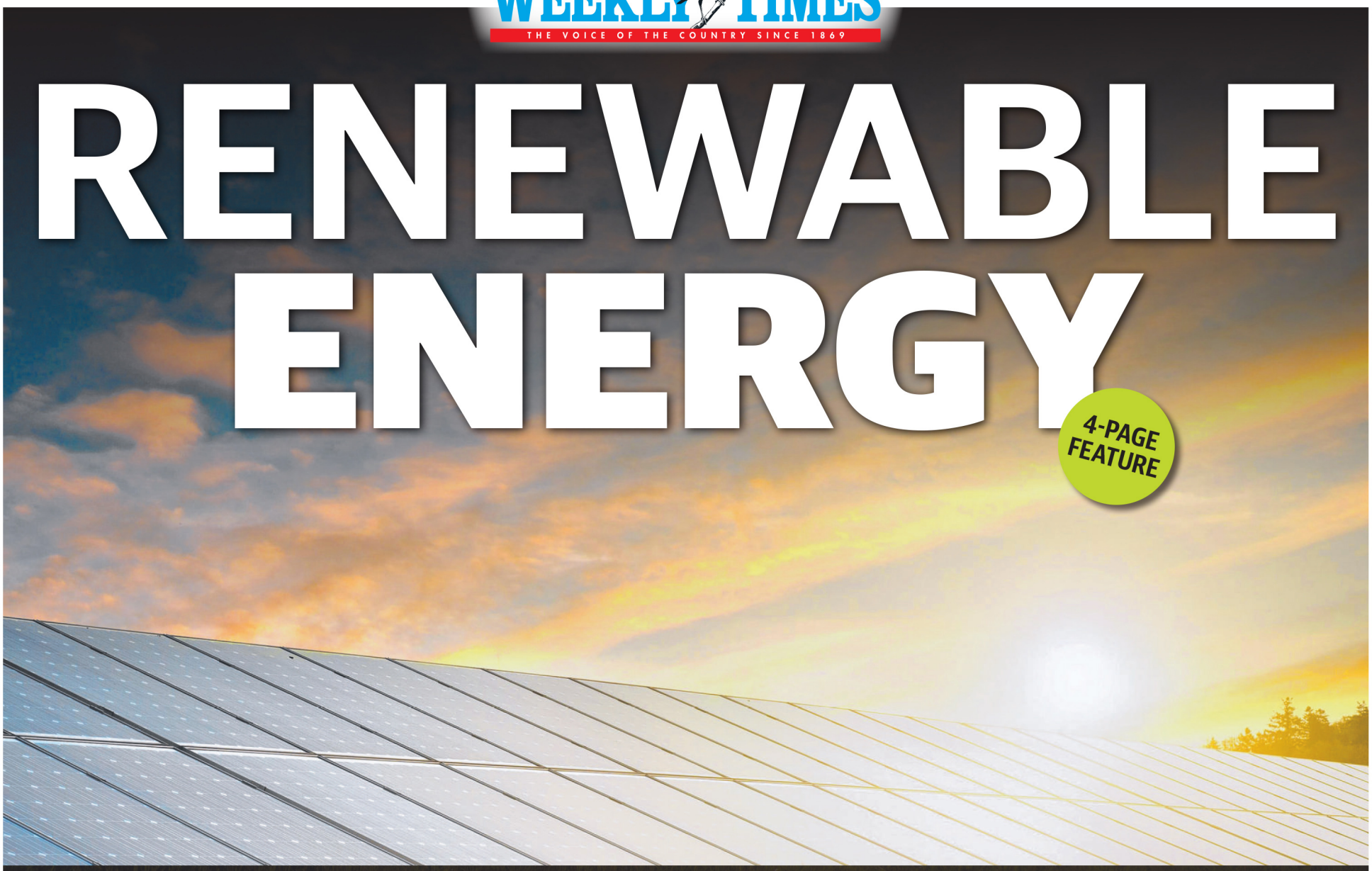
RENEWABLE ENERGY

4-PAGE FEATURE



Dairy family leads the way in turning smarter ideas into cost savings

By COLIN TAYLOR

THE dairy-farming Doolan family have been key players in an innovative project in southwest Victoria aimed, in part, at exploring smarter uses of renewable energy technologies.

The Doolans run about 575 cows on their 279ha Ecklin South home property near Timboon, in a partnership involving brothers Peter and Sam and parents Sam Sr and Carol.

The two-year project set out to focus on soil health, carbon capture and the potential of renewable energy options.

It's been led by the Heytesbury District Landcare Network, which received $146,582 in 2018 through the Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation to deliver a "Keeping Carbon on the Farm" program with activities such as revegetation, composting, the use of carbon-rich biochar as a soil supplement and energy audits.

This initial effort has since been extended to 20 farms through separate funding.

HDLN co-ordinator Geoff Rollinson said the original plan for the Doolan farm was to create a benchmark example, demonstrating how smarter energy use could lead to savings.

"Drawing down greenhouse gas emissions was our primary focus, but that led us to thinking about renewable energy and running the audit," Mr Rollinson said. "We originally had wind turbines and solar panels in mind, but our thinking shifted across into an energy-monitoring system using a web-based phone app.

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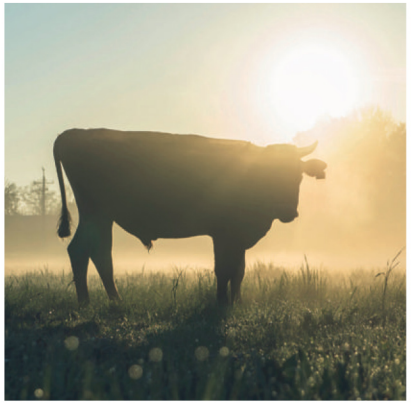
power up your waste and turn it into profit

PRODUCE YOUR OWN POWER = ZERO WASTE + LOWER UTILITY COSTS + LOWER CO_2 EMISSIONS.

Bioenergy systems offered by Energy360 collect and utilise local food and other organic waste streams to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and produce valuable renewable energy for natural gas replacement.

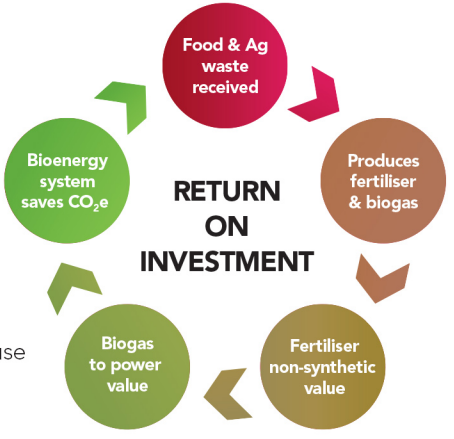
System dependent but typical energy savings of 20-40% along with carbon emission savings of 25% can be easily achieved.

Additional outputs include fertiliser and soil conditioner, which assists to improve local food security, carbon capture and reduce synthetic fertiliser run-off which can create blue-green algae. A system with additional capital investment can also capture carbon dioxide for horticulture use.



COST BENEFITS OF A BIOENERGY SYSTEM

- Food and agricultural waste a part of the circular economy
- Organic (non-synthetic) fertiliser will enhance soil carbon capture
- No phosphate run off from fertiliser which reduces blue-green algae
- Renewable electricity or gas
- Naturally derived carbon dioxide for industry use
- Prevents carbon dioxide emissions



NEXT STEPS

If you have:

- Dairy, piggery, feedlot or poultry manure
- Horticultural waste
- Food processing and source segregated food waste,

and would like to discuss how a bioenergy system can "**power up your waste**" we'd love to hear from you.

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