



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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HOPE E-news Bulletin #25, 25 September 2009

Hi everyone,

Isn't spring a lovely time of year! Here in Toowoomba we are enjoying the Carnival of Flowers. All the parks and gardens are looking great again. It's inspiring! If you need any help with your garden, try Green Harvest (www.greenharvest.com.au). And, if you are in need of plastic pots for your plants just give the office a call - we have lots to give away.

Miriam Sharp, Secretary - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

"The rose has thorns only for those who would gather it" - Chinese Proverb

Office news

Whew! We have been so busy doing *Low Carbon Diet* project work; and preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and 21st Birthday celebrations - that we're getting behind in the admin work. We also require assistance with sorting out and catalogueing our library resources - some of this work can be done off-site. Lastly, help is needed with literature review, website enquiries and article writing. If you live locally and have a few hours to spare weekly, we would appreciate your help. Please phone the office on 4639 2135 to discuss volunteer opportunities.

HOPE Turns 21!!!

We are celebrating our 21st year of operation at the AGM on **Saturday 14 November**. All are welcome. (see Date Claimer below for full details)

Date Claimer

Annual General Meeting and 21st Birthday celebrations

Date: Saturday 14 November
Venue: Laurel Bank Park pergola (Herries St side), Toowoomba
Time: 11.30am - AGM followed by lunch at 12.30pm
Event: AGM and sausage sizzle lunch celebrating 21 years of HOPE

RSVP: By Friday 6 November for catering purposes
BYO: Chairs, drinks & special dietary requirements

PS. Help is needed with setting up. Offers of assistance can be directed to Miriam, ph 4639 5030 or Frank 4639 2135.

Low Carbon Diet project and related news

HOPE LCD project update

Highlights include:

- LCD program presentation at Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT) on 3 September. Thanks to Andrew Nicholson who represented HOPE on the day.
- The completion of our LCD display program at local shopping centres.
- Staging of Toowoomba's Sustainable House Day on 13 September. Thanks to Nigel Kimball, Yarramine Environmental, for coordinating the event on our behalf.

Zero emissions homes within reach says new report

In the wake of one of the nation's warmest and driest winters on record, the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) and other environment groups are calling for new building standards to reduce emissions and water use, and to help Australia's homes and families cope with future temperature and price shocks.

The call coincides with the release of the *Towards climate safe homes: The case for zero emissions and water saving homes and neighbourhoods*, which shows that with the right government support and with efforts to fast-track stronger environmental building standards, Australian homes and neighbourhoods could be emissions free and water efficient by 2020.



Beyond Zero Emissions

The world's climate scientists are telling us that we already have too much carbon in the atmosphere to avoid runaway climate change. They are urging us to stabilise our atmospheric carbon dioxide levels well below 350 parts per million (ppm), from the 389 ppm we have today. Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), a not-for-profit, volunteer run organisation has accepted this since our inception in 2006, and has been advocating an urgent shift to a zero emissions economy for Australia and the world. How do we get to zero emissions? Unfortunately, our state and federal governments are not even exploring this option. BZE is filling this gap through its Zero Carbon Australia 2020 project. This project is a costed technical feasibility study for getting to zero emissions in Australia by 2020, using existing, commercialised technologies. We welcome any assistance and cooperation from groups or people who share our vision. Please get in touch on pablo@beyondzeroemissions.org, call 03 8383 2232 during business hours Mon-Thu or via our website <http://beyondzeroemissions.org>.

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Green Harvest presents **Australian Gardening Books sale.**

Save over \$70.00 - 4 great titles for the price of 1 book!

Pack contains 1 copy of:

- **Habitat Garden Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden**
- **Organic Vegetable Gardening**
- **Australian Plants for Year Round Colour**
- **Successful Gardening in Warm Climates**

Purchase as individual books and pay over \$110.00. Stock very limited, offer only while supplies last.

Go to <http://www.greenharvest.com.au>

Letter to the Editor

This is an extract of a 'letter to the editor' by Lyn Spears. The full article can be read on our website www.hopeaustralia.org.au.

'The developers behind the giant Cubbie Station have built their irrigation infrastructure to a scale that clearly leaves the people downstream with a much reduced and inequitable share. Cubbie's massive storage dams, levee banks and diversion channels have effectively cut rivers off from their floodplains and altered the natural ebb and flow on which the river's plants, animals and fragile eco systems depend. The river system downstream is clearly in crisis and Cubbie Station, one of the largest private irrigation projects in the world is, according to many, the biggest culprit.'



Lyn Spears, SA

Dear Editor,

A call to support the Care for the Car Free Days

The World Car Free Days are 18-22 September. Over 2020 cities promote healthy eco-mobility climates! Web details: <http://www.22september.org> and <http://www.worldcarfree.net>

Time now to act on social exclusions, transport tyrannies, toxic emissions, climate calamities and biodiversity perils! Aid Green Travel Actions for a better climate and positive changes in our society.

We have requested the Mayor of Toowoomba to declare 20-22 September as Care for the Car Free Days in 2010 Carnival of Flowers. Eco-friendly travel and tourism trade services enhance the Carnival and put Toowoomba in the World Eco-events map. Please plan to trim car travel demand by 10% in 2010 and write to the Mayor supporting Care for the Car Free Days! Suggested Themes for promoting public awareness events:

- 20 September Eco Plan-Tourism-Transport Futures Day*
- 21 September World Peace Day/Safe Public Spaces Day*
- 22 September Car Free Services, Users and Operators Day*

We seek 22 pacesetters/sponsors of Green Travels (GT) and help to form a GT Action Committee.

Rama Naidu, email: th96724@bigpond.net.au , phone (07) 4635 8435.

General

E-waste recycling - who should pay?

Electronic waste (or e-waste) is growing at three times the rate of household waste. Yet there is still no national scheme to deal with it. In the run up to the November meeting of all Australian Environment Ministers, we ask - Who do you think should be responsible for covering the cost of recycling old computers, TVs, mobiles and other e-waste? Read the full story at

<http://www.planetark.com/awarenews/49>

From the TrueFoodNetwork: GE in your beer?

Fosters have told us they are not sure if their customers care whether their beer contains genetically engineered (GE) ingredients. Fosters make Carlton, VB, Crown, Harp, Cascade and Corona. Please let them know that you do care and don't want GE in your beer!

<http://www.truefood.org.au/newsandevents/?news=67>

National Program for the Collection and Disposal of Unwanted and Out-of-date Medicines

The *Return Unwanted Medicines Project*, known as the **RUM Project** is a national not-for-profit company. The RUM Project is a national scheme providing for unwanted and out-of-date medicines to be returned to community pharmacies across Australia. Every Australian pharmacy has access to the RUM Project. The returned medicines are disposed of by high temperature incineration, which is the EPA approved method of disposal. Access to the RUM Project facility is free. Information is available on the company website at: www.returnmed.com.au

Queensland News

Koala Petition for South-East Queensland

Save the Koalas in South-East Queensland! Please show your concern and sign Meghan Halverson's petition! It is crucial that we stop the destruction of their habitats; and research how best we can help these wonderful animals!!!! Go to <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/4/save-the-koalas> and sign today!

National News

Australia State of the Environment Report - Survey and Register

The fourth national State of the Environment report is due for release at the end of 2011. In the lead-up to the publication of this five-yearly report, the Federal Department of Environment is planning to introduce a number of new State of the Environment materials and online products. To register your details to receive these new (national) State of Environment 2011 publications as they become available, visit <http://www.environment.gov.au/soe/>.

Snippets of interest

- The Mayor of Alice Springs says the town's bottle and can recycling scheme is attracting interest from around Australia. Full story at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/15/2686458.htm>
- West Australians are reported to be among the worst in the country at recycling. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/15/2686469.htm?site=news>
- People in Bendigo will be able to access renewable energy by the end of the year with Bendigo's Solar Park on track to be completed by Christmas. Go to <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/14/2685206.htm?site=news>

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Yarramine Environmental is pleased to introduce a new service for the households of Toowoomba and surrounds. Make your home sustainable - save money, save the environment and live better. Get a **Home Sustainability Assessment** today, priced from just \$85. Our consultant will visit your home to discuss opportunities for sustainability improvements. You will receive on the spot advice, plus a written report tailored specially to your home after our visit. For more information go to <http://www.yarramineconsulting.com.au/>

Updates on upcoming events

Renewable and Alternative Energy Symposium,

10am - 4pm, **Sunday 27 September**; Mt Coot-tha Lakeside Gardens Café

Guest Speakers include:

- Mr Peter Broschofsky, Head of Environment & Fuels Conservation, Qantas
- The Hon Wilson Tuckey, Federal Member for O'Connor
- The Hon Bob Katter MP, Federal Member for Kennedy
- Ambassador Fernando De Mello Barreto, Ambassador for Brazil

A full Symposium Program is available from www.michaeljohnsonmp.com

Brisbane Organic Growers Fair, **Sunday 4th October**

All about growing vegetables in the back yard. Lots of helpful hints and displays.

Venue - 102 McDonald Rd Windsor (under the Albion overpass). http://www.bogi.org.au/bogi_fair.htm

Resources

Web resources

The LivingGreener web portal (www.livinggreener.gov.au) provides a starting point for information about living more sustainably and reducing your environmental impact. It also includes information on government programs and financial support. In this first release, LivingGreener provides links to federal government websites and websites sponsored by the Australian Government. In the future we will link to state, territory and local government websites as well.

Buy for love, buy for hope...

At the heart of **The Thin Green Line** shop is the spirit of community. Co-operatively run by a number of small business owners and passionate individuals who have come together with a shared desire to contribute something positive to the wellbeing of humanity and the earth. Our aim is to educate, communicate and inspire a healthy, sustainable lifestyle by creating, sourcing and providing Certified Organic and Fair Trade products such as; bedding, clothing, skin care, food, gifts, books, natural paints and the latest in eco-developments. Our unique products and services are available in store and on-line for all specialty product-lines. We also supply local and Fair Trade products with the same vision.

14 Great Reasons to Shop at The Thin Green Line:

1. Genuine organic and healthy sustainable products
2. Supporting local and Australian businesses
3. Promoting Fair Trade and ethical responsibility
4. Free eco-gift wrapping
5. Excellent value for money
6. Customer Rewards
7. We cater for specific dietary needs
8. A one-stop shop
9. We offer genuine customer support
10. Free information service
11. We care about you
12. We support community
13. Your purchases help make a difference
14. We are available for reflection and feedback

The Thin Green Line

1/4 Wharf Street, Murwillumbah, NSW, 2484

phone: (02) 6672 3454; info@thethinggreenline.com.au; www.thethinggreenline.com.au

Report on Inquiry into Public Transport

Investment of Commonwealth and State funds in public passenger transport infrastructure and services Senate report released 20 August 2009 (PDF 1.3MB)

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/rtrat_ctte/public_transport/report/report.pdf

Landcare/NRM news

Landcare celebrates 20 years of action

Landcare Week is 20 years old! This year Landcare is celebrating the huge contribution of the 100,000 strong volunteer network and its work with Australia's natural environment. Landcare Queensland Chair Geoff Penton said during the past 20 years the landcare movement has been a constant in an evolving natural resource management and sustainability sector. Landcare evolved from grass roots action. Local people addressing local sustainability issues are the strength of this self-driven network. The political, social and environmental climate has changed significantly since landcare's fledgling years, however, the network has remained. "The strength of the network has fluctuated from time to time and over recent years Landcare in Queensland has experienced some decline in the overall number of groups operating and on-ground landcare projects being implemented. We are seeking to undertake the development of a Landcare21 plan to help the Queensland landcare network position itself to remain resilient for another 20 years to come," said Mr Penton. Landcare21 will help draw important information from a range of stakeholders including long time landcare stalwarts as well as a new generation of landcarers. The plan will focus on the history and success of the landcare movement in Queensland as well as outline recommendations and actions to assist in supporting landcare groups in Queensland well into the future. For further information about Landcare21 email Chloe Tanner or phone 07 3211 4413 and to view 20th anniversary activities visit the Landcare website.

(Sourced from The Bugle, September 2009)

Social Justice

Oxfam Australia is a secular, independent, non-government, not-for-profit organisation working in over 30 countries around the world. Oxfam Australia's vision is of a fair world in which people control their own lives, their basic rights are achieved and the environment is sustained. The organisation seeks to increase the number of people who have a sustainable livelihood, access to social services, an effective voice in decisions, safety from conflict and disaster, and equal rights and status. Oxfam works in partnership with communities around the world. Oxfam also works within indigenous communities in Australia. Oxfam Australia is involved in a number of activities. We support self-help development projects in over 30 countries working with communities on a range of issues such as health, education, water and sanitation, gender, HIV/AIDS and gender. For more information on the work that Oxfam Australia does please visit the Oxfam Australia website www.oxfam.org.au or call 1800 088 110.

Stand Up Against Poverty is the largest solidarity movement against poverty that the world has ever seen. As 2015 looms ever closer - marking the end date of the Millennium Development Goals - we must do all in our power to help fulfill those goals. On the weekend of **October 16-18** join the global movement to end poverty by attending a Stand Up event nearest you, or by hosting your own event in your school, workplace or community. Register on <http://www.standupagainstpoverity.com.au/>

A tip / helpful hint

Melissa Glen has prepared a series of helpful hints information sheets on Sustainable Living. We will publish parts of these in our e-news bulletin on a regular basis. The full version of the series is available from the office, and will also be available from the 'helpful hints' page on our website soon. Part three is on transport. Thank you Melissa for your contribution.

Helpful Hints - Transport

by Melissa Glen

Transport methods contribute greatly to Australia's footprint. The average Australian householder will create nearly six tonnes of greenhouse gas due to transport, representing around 34% of their total greenhouse gas emissions. Being more aware of your transportation methods can make a huge difference.

Cars

The most environmentally friendly option would be not to have a car, but obviously this isn't practical for many people. There are many ways to try to minimise the effect your car will have on the environment though:

➤ **Leave the car at home when possible**

Opting to use public transport, a taxi, to walk or ride a bike is far more preferable from an environmental perspective, particularly if you would have been the only person in the car.

➤ **Car pooling & car sharing**

Car pooling can often be a viable option for journeys to work or dropping children at school. Car sharing can be great for those who only use cars occasionally and don't want the overhead of owning or leasing a car of their own. It's a type of inexpensive rental scheme where cars (often environmentally friendly) are available for hire by the hour or by the day.

- www.goget.com.au Sydney & Melbourne
- www.flexicar.com.au Sydney & Melbourne
- www.charterdrive.com.au Sydney & Melbourne, but in the coming months Brisbane & Gold Coast will also be included.

➤ **Plan your trips**

Figure out the most efficient routes in advance, try to avoid peak hour traffic, can you wait and then combine several outings into the one trip? Think ahead.

➤ **Research before you buy**

Is that huge four wheel drive essential for your inner city living? Consider new car purchases carefully and how it will contribute to your environmental footprint.

The website www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au is a fantastic resource provided by the Australian government. Different vehicle models are given an environmental impact star rating, and many factors such as fuel efficiency, air pollution rating, level of greenhouse gas emissions and overall efficiency can be compared.

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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