



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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HOPE E-news Bulletin #28 - 21 December 2009

Hi,

We have arrived at the end of the year again - already! - which means this enews bulletin is the last one for 2009. HOPE has had a great year and we celebrated 21 years of HOPE in November. It was great to see all of you at the AGM/ social. Thanks for coming and supporting us. Let's hope 2010 will be at least as good as 2009 was. For now, Merry Christmas to everyone and all the best for the New Year. Have a safe holiday!

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

"There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed", Mohandas K. Gandhi

Office news

New look website - www.hopeaustralia.org.au

A BIG thanks to Stephen for his efforts at upgrading our website. Please check out Stephen's work and tell us what you think.

Outstanding grant applications

If at first you don't succeed, try again! That's exactly what HOPE will be doing in early 2010 by submitting fresh funding applications to Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) and Jupitors Casino CBF for laptops, data projector and screen; and to produce a DVD film on Climate Change Adaption on the Darling Downs. Fingers crossed we will be successful this time around!

Project updates:

1. The Low Carbon Diet - Apart from a few more information displays and guest speaker spots in early 2010, HOPE has all but finished its LCD activities for the project. Meanwhile, we are keen to hear from you about the energy-wise practices you have employed at your home, workplace or school. Please send us an email outlining which measures you have adopted from the Low carbon Diet program or if you have undertaken the ClimateSmart Home Service.
2. Darling Downs Solar Neighbourhood Project - Round 1 of the SN project is fully subscribed with 60 households taking advantage of this "bulk purchase Solar PV to Grid System" scheme. Round 2 will be commencing around February 2010. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact the office for further details.

Wanted - Used Postage Stamps

Since 1993, HOPE has been collecting *used postage stamps* for distribution to community groups in the Toowoomba area, for their fund-raising efforts.

If you can contribute to this worthwhile exercise, please forward a "Used Postage Stamps" package to the HOPE Office, PO Box 6118, Toowoomba West QLD 4350 or simply drop them into 22 Vacy Street., Toowoomba.

We are also happy to receive un-wanted stamp albums / collections.

AGM report

This AGM was a little bit special, because HOPE celebrated its 21st birthday. First we had a formal meeting, and then we had a bbq lunch while listening to an overview of the past 21 years of operation.

The meeting was opened by the president, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Highlights of the year were discussed. We received funding from DERM to participate in the Low Carbon Diet program, and Jerry Coleby-Williams offered to be our patron.

Next was the election of office-bearers for 2010. We had to say farewell to our treasurer Clare Davies, and we welcomed Nigel Kimball who is taking over from her as treasurer. A written nomination was received from Frank Ondrus for President. Verbal nominations were received from Andrew Nicholson for Vice-President, Miriam Sharp for Secretary, Nigel Kimball for Treasurer, David Shipp for IT Advisor and Stephen Warburton for Website Manager.

As part of the 21st birthday celebrations we handed out thank you certificates to people who have played a key role with HOPE over the years.



giving an overview of HOPE's history



21 Years of HOPE



Our patron - Jerry Coleby-Williams



Nigel Kimball our new treasurer

Frank

Updates on Upcoming Events

Clean Up Australia events



2010 marks the 20th Anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day. If every Australian picks up JUST 1 piece of rubbish, together we could remove more than 20 million pieces from our environment. It's fun and easy, so that anyone and everyone can get involved.

Clean Up Australia Day

- Sunday, 7 March 2010

Business Clean Up Day

- Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Schools Clean Up Day

- Friday, 5 March 2010

Climate Change Conference, University of Queensland - Brisbane, QLD, 8-10 July 2010:

<http://on-climate.com/conference-2010/>

Position Vacant - Membership Officer

A volunteer is required to look after HOPE's membership activities. Tasks include writing the occasional media release to attract members (and supporters); and dealing with members' enquiries. This person will also be responsible for liaising with our Mutual Support Partners.

Please contact the HOPE office on (07) 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au if you are able to help with these membership activities.

Queensland News

High rises to grow their own cooling system in Queensland

Queensland could soon be trialling vertical gardens in an effort to make our cities greener and cooler. In addition to the more traditional roof top gardens, new projects will trial green roofs and even green walls. Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin said our buildings could look a whole lot different in the future with three-dimensional gardens. The Queensland Government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Singapore National Parks Board that could soon see local scientists growing vegetation on high rise buildings to reduce heat and improve air quality. The MOU will open the door to a range of joint projects and knowledge sharing about urban greening and these projects will benefit from Singapore's experience. Singapore has taken the best and most innovative ideas from around the world to make their 'city in a garden' vision a reality. They take the green approach to urban planning very seriously. For example, the land area taken up by a building must have an equivalent area in green space, whether on the roof top or the wall. So, like many other dense cities around the world, they have started creating a three-dimensional garden for their urban landscape. Their urban greenery projects are world class and are being delivered on an unprecedented scale. Mr Mulherin said according to international experience, these initiatives can significantly reduce the quantity of air conditioning required to achieve the same cooling levels. Some studies have shown roof top gardens can reduce surface temperature by 10-20°C. "We want to quantify what those benefits could be in Queensland conditions. So we are looking for research partners at the moment to get some city trials underway. We will look at the actual temperature reduction, the cost of installation and maintenance, and the possible energy savings," Mr Mulherin said. For further information visit the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation: <http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au>

(Sourced from The Bugle, 04/12/09)

Queensland **TravelSmart** Program - http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/General_information/Travelsmart/

Reverse the Effect is a Queensland Government initiative to encourage motorists to balance the impact of their vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions on the environment. Queensland motorists can get involved by making a donation to the Queensland Trust for Nature. These donations go towards helping to plant trees and create native forests that capture carbon from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of greenhouse gases. By creating native forests we can expand protected natural areas in Queensland to minimise the effects of climate change and to enhance the environment for the future. For more information go to http://www.reversetheeffect.com.au/pages/program.html#how_it_works

New Product Ticketing to help you shop more energy efficiently!

Looking to buy a new fridge or air-conditioner this summer? You'll find all the information and advice you need to help you compare the environmental performance and running costs of major household appliances at a ClimateSmart Retail partner store. Current partners include The Good Guys, R.T. Edwards, Retravisation stores (Caboolture, Bribie Island, Redcliffe and Springwood only) and Pannells Appliances (Noosa, Coolum and Maroochydore stores). More retail partners will be joining the program shortly. For more information, go to http://www.climatesmart.qld.gov.au/get_informed/climatesmart_living_news/december/new_product_ticketing_to_help_you_shop_more_energy_efficiently!

REFUSE, REDUCE, RE-USE, Recycle!

Emissions Trading Links

Sustainable Jamboree have done a great job putting together a set of links on emissions trading.

- FAQs from the Asia-Pacific Emissions Trading Forum is at: <http://www.aetf.net.au/knowledgecentre.php?x=38&r=faq>
- Choice Consumer association - The carbon pollution reduction scheme implications for households: <http://www.choice.com.au/Consumer-Action/Sustainable%20choices/Sustainability-campaigns/The-carbon-pollution-reduction-scheme-implications-for-households/Page/The%20carbon%20pollution%20reduction%20scheme%20implications%20for%20households.aspx>
- A basic summary of emissions trading from the Australian Conservation Foundation is at: http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=1817
- The Commonwealth's own explanation is at: <http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/cprs/how-cprs-works.aspx>
- A recent community ppt about emissions trading (by Delta) is at: www.de.com.au/.../Emission-Trading-Community-presentation.pdf.aspx
- The Sydney Morning Herald did a brief basic summary in Oct 09: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/how-the-emissions-trading-system-works-20091017-h22o.html>
- SBS's version is longer but excellent at: <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1071586/How-will-the-ETS-work>
- For something consumer friendly from a legal firm see: <http://www.wpca.com.au/newsview/calculating-the-size-of-your-business-carbon-footprint-16>
- Another legal firm has done a glossary of terms: <http://www.minterellison.com/public/connect/Internet/Home/Legal+Insights/Newsletters/Previous+Newsletters/A-G-Glossary>
- Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emissions_trading
- AIG's thoughts on the impacts on business: <http://www.aigroup.com.au/portal/site/aig/environment/emissions/>

General

Buy solar lighting for a village in East Timor

Give the gift of light this Christmas! Over the past six years volunteers from the Alternative Technology Association's (ATA) International Projects Group (IPG) have traveled the length and breadth of East Timor installing 354 solar power systems, and providing lighting for 260 households.

Support the installation of clean green energy by giving:

- a solar panel for an East Timorese family \$50
- a whole solar system for an east Timorese family \$150.

You will be sent a Christmas gift card that tells what your present has achieved.

For more information and to buy, go to

http://shop.ata.org.au/cart.php?target=category&category_id=332



Friends of Felton Inc.

Friends of Felton Inc. was established in February 2008. Our mission is clear: To stop Ambre Energy's so-called Felton 'Clean Coal' Project, and defend the Darling Downs from mining. Simply put, it would be hard to imagine a project with more harmful impact on farmland, the environment, and the community.

Friends of Felton Inc oppose this proposal for a variety of reasons including the effects on the immediate and further surrounding areas, including groundwater, air and noise pollution, increased

traffic, light pollution, and very importantly the loss of prime farmland and the effect on endangered species and ecosystems.

The Felton area is home to thriving broadacre agriculture and more recently irrigated horticulture, as well as a strong community. Agriculture in the area is essentially mixed farming, with significant quantities of cropping (winter and summer), horticultural, dairying and grazing production.

A survey was conducted by Friends of Felton Inc for the 2007-2008 production period. The summer-grown produce within a 10km radius from the proposed mine was 23,755 tonnes or 76% of total crop production, and included sorghum, corn, sunflowers, millet, mungbeans and soybeans, while wheat, barley, chickpeas, canola, canary and oats were grown through the winter totalling 7,450 tonnes or 24% of total crop production.

Horticultural production over the period was dominated by lettuce-growing, with approximately 4 million lettuce heads produced, while some 320 tonnes of onions and 150 tonnes of organic mixed vegetables were also grown. Animal products included 4.3 million litres of milk, 18,280 tonnes of beef, 1,540 tonnes of pork, 2 tonnes of mohair and 0.2 tonnes of wool, and apiarists produced 10 tonnes of honey. Additional enterprises include horse breeding, with almost 1300 horses in the area, and chicken and egg production.

The Felton issue has become a 'test case', being the furthest advanced mining project on prime farmland. If Friends of Felton Inc are successful in the campaign, it would set a valuable precedent which would help to protect other threatened areas such as the Haystack and Jimbour Plains. If we lose, it will be very hard to stop mining proceeding right across the Eastern Darling Downs, and into the suburbs of Toowoomba.

Friends of Felton Inc have been fundraising in order to employ experts to assist in the response to the Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to be released early next year. At the same time efforts to gain publicity for the cause will continue.

The studies for which fundraising has been required include hydrology, social impact, flora and fauna, renewable energy, land rehabilitation and cultural heritage. Friends of Felton Inc have been granted an extension to put forward a submission in reply, once Ambre Energy's EIS is published.

Friends of Felton Inc would be very grateful for any donations towards their fundraising. If interested, please contact us for details for donations.

Thank you very much.

President Rob McCreath, "Prestbury", Southbrook 4363 www.friendsoffelton.blogspot.com

Rainforest Rescue

Rainforest Rescue is a not-for-profit organisation that has been protecting and restoring rainforests in Australia and internationally since 1998 by providing opportunities for individuals and businesses to Protect Rainforests Forever. Our projects re-establish rainforests through planting, maintenance and restoration programs, as well as purchasing and protecting high conservation value rainforest and preserving its biodiversity. Rainforest Rescue is supported by donations from individuals, philanthropists, business sponsorship and foundation grants. We do not receive government funding. For more information go to www.rainforestrescue.org.au

Australian News

Improving the Energy Efficiency of Australia's Office Buildings

Australia's governments have agreed to a new national scheme to improve the energy efficiency of commercial office buildings, Environment Minister, Peter Garrett said. Starting in the second half of 2010, building owners will need to provide up-to-date energy efficiency information when they sell or lease office space covering more than 2000 square metres. "This means all parties - the building owner and potential buyers or tenants - will have access to consistent, credible and meaningful information about a building's energy efficiency and make informed decisions when they buy or rent office space," Mr Garrett said. For more info go to

<http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20091112.html>

Sustainability assessments - Government Green Loans Program

Each year the average Australian household contributes around 13 tonnes of green-house gas to the atmosphere. Increasingly, Australians are looking for ways to stop wasting resources, save money on household bills and protect the environment. The Australian Government's Green Loans Program is funding free home sustainability assessments (valued at over \$250) to identify how to save energy, water and green house gas emissions. It is also subsidising Green Loans of up to \$10,000 interest-free for up to four years, for householders to make the recommended improvements (terms and conditions apply). The free home sustainability assessment is the first step to qualify for a Green Loan, should you decide that is what you want to do. The home sustainability assessment could identify actions as simple as switching to energy efficient lights and replacing shower heads. It may also recommend bigger changes such as installing water or energy saving products like rainwater tanks or solar panels. Householders who want to make these larger scale changes can apply for an interest-free Green Loan to make the recommended improvements. Green Loans is creating greener homes - ultimately helping around 360,000 Australian households save energy and water and look after the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. To book your free Home Sustainability Assessment, call the Hotline on 1800 895 076 (9.00am-5.00pm EST, Monday-Friday).

Greening South Australia

Trees for Life (TFL) is an organisation that continually proves that amazing things can be achieved when a group of people and volunteers work together toward a common purpose and goal. It is a non-profit, South Australian community organisation established in 1981 to promote and assist the revegetation of South Australia and to protect its remnant vegetation. It is the largest volunteer organisation of its type in Australia and is recognised for the integrity of its programs and its environmental achievements. Since its inception Trees For Life programs have raised community awareness, and increased the understanding of the need for revegetation and bushland protection. Local native seedlings are provided to landholders at below cost and volunteers and landholders grow approximately 1 million seedlings annually. Approximately 27 million trees have been grown to date. Carbon offset planting is also a specialised program delivered by Trees For Life. For more information see the website: <http://www.treesforlife.org.au/home/>

EcoTuff™ - Eco friendly

Adelaide company Adroit Industries is turning waste into clean, strong, sustainable building materials. Post consumer waste is granulated and mixed with other recycled materials. The waste is then ground into extremely small aggregates to create a very smooth, consistent and reliable product. The fine composite aggregate is superheated and forced through a "dye" to form the desired shape or form. The finished product is extremely robust and superior for many uses when compared to timber, concrete and other building materials. Adroit has just completed a project in northwest Tasmania where more than 30 tonne of waste was transformed into materials required for a 300m boardwalk.

Adroit is now using 'EcoTuff' to create a wide variety of eco-friendly products such as decking, bollards and outdoor furniture and has turned what was once considered problematic rubbish destined for landfill into a multi-million dollar eco-friendly industry. Check the website: <http://www.adroit.com.au/>

Landcare/NRM News

Healthy Country to help improve SEQ waterways

More than 30 producers throughout South East Queensland will share in \$170,000 to implement best management practices on their land to reduce potential sediment and nutrient run-off into catchments. Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland Tim Mulherin recently launched the start of the first works under the FarmFLOW incentive package. Mr Mulherin said the successful funding applicants include producers in the Logan-Albert, Lockyer, Bremer and Pumicestone catchments. This is truly a partnership program, with producers also committing three times the funding through their own cash, labour and machinery for their projects. Mr Mulherin visited John Jackson's beef and vineyard property at Coleyville, who is one of the successful funding applicants, receiving a \$2000 granted to add to the land management program he has already started with assistance from SEQ Catchments. The Queensland Government grant will go towards planting native trees and grasses to ensure his recent gully rehabilitation works are not eroded during the upcoming wet season. Through Mr Jackson's new grazing management system he will be able to spell gully areas from grazing to allow good grass cover to establish and increase bank stability so as to reduce erosion risk in the future. Other projects receiving funding include: fencing wetlands and waterways, improving groundcover in orchards, reducing the use of nutrients and pesticides, and inter-row covers to reduce soil loss in horticultural production. Projects such as these are central to protecting South East Queensland's waterways, and will help reduce the 315,000 tonnes of sediment discharged each year into Moreton Bay from sources across the region. For more information visit the Healthy Country website: www.healthycountry.com.au
From The Bugle 04/12/09

Resources

Web resources

Church Resources - Greening Communities

Church Resources is a charitable trust established to help Church and not-for-profit communities facilitate the power of collective purchasing to provide a wide range of discounted product and service solutions. It began as a one-stop shop for telecommunications products, services and solutions but from 2001 other products were introduced and now include travel, office supplies, information and communication technology, aged care supplies, vehicles and environmental products. Their Greening Communities program aims to help Church and NFP groups contribute to ecological sustainability by providing Church Resources' members with access to a variety of knowledge, tools and direction to develop a sustainability plan which can help improve environmental outcomes.

Church Resources now has access to the largest not-for-profit market in Australia. For further information visit www.churchresources.com.au/default2.asp?active_page_id=121

Interesting Websites

Friends of Parks - www.communitywebs.org/FriendsofParks/

Hurry Save the Murray - <http://hurrysavethemurray.com/>

Become one in a million: <http://www.1millionwomen.com.au>

Water for the Future: National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative - <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/nrgi/index.html>

A tip / helpful hint

A sustainable Christmas is easier than you think! Planet Ark has produced a guide to help you make the right choices. This top ten **Low Carbon Christmas tips** will help you to save money, the environment and to bring a green festive vibe to your Christmas season!

- Reduce waste by making a list and checking it twice... before you go food or Christmas shopping with your re-usable bags.
- When buying presents, look for practical, quality items that serve a need and will last for a long time.
- Try to avoid buying gifts that are battery-operated, or consider gifts that are water, solar, wind or hand powered.
- Wrap presents in a new scarf, bandanna, calico bag or tea towel.
- If you do buy gift-wrap, look for recycled paper options, and avoid using foil-wrap as it isn't recyclable.
- Buy good quality ornaments and decorations that can be re-used for years to come.
- Cut down on food waste, reduce the amount of meat and seafood purchased and stock up on locally produced, organic fruit and vegetables.
- Use public transport where possible and consider offsetting any major travelling plans involving flights or long car trips.
- Don't leave your Christmas lights on all night and switch off all appliances at the wall before going on vacation.
- Recycle, Recycle, Recycle - wrapping paper, cards, decorations, left-over food, jars, cans, glass and plastic bottles. Almost anything can be recycled - check out www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au . And don't forget to purchase recycled products.

For the full Christmas shopping guide go to

<http://festiverecycling.planetark.org/documents/doc-179-festive-green-guide-2009-final.pdf>

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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