



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #04 - 18 April 2011

The following items have been gleaned from various e:newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

Hello everyone,

After tragic events such as those that have come upon us over the last few months a lot of rebuilding is required. We should see this as an opportunity to incorporate 'green' building practices. A great example of 'best practice' in this field is described by Victor Skowronski in his feature article about 60 Leicester Street Victoria. There are so many things we can do to build in an environmentally sustainable way and be commercially viable at the same time, and the article tells you how. Let's learn from such great work and use that knowledge in the disaster recovery building process.

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

*"If civilization has risen from the Stone Age, it can rise again from the Wastepaper Age"
by Jacques Barzun, The House of Intellect, 1959*

Upcoming Events

April

- [World Heritage Day](#) - 18th
- [Earth Day](#) - 22nd

May

- [World Migratory Bird Day](#) - 8th to 9th
- [National Volunteer Week](#) - 9th
- [International Museum Day](#) - 18th
- [Walk Safely to School Day](#) - 20th
- [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) - 22nd
- [World Turtle Day](#) - 23rd

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time; or at other times by appointment.

Office news

Wow! It's been an extremely busy time for the management committee and admin volunteers over the past month or so with most of our effort focussed on our inaugural *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* to be held at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), Toowoomba on Sunday 5 June 2011. Our *Going Solar* seminars have been well attended, but numbers at our last 2 *Public Information Forums* have been disappointing. Please make an effort to support the next forum which will take place on Wednesday 11 May (see Date Claimers below).

Management Committee

I failed to mention in the last e:news bulletin that at the last general meeting held on 6 March 2011, we decided to reduce the management committee team from 7 to 5 members to ensure that we were always able to have a quorum at meetings. The committee positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and E:news Editor. The positions of Website Manager and IT Advisor have been added to the Admin Volunteers list.

Further breaking news is that Andrew Nicholson has resigned as Vice-President due to work commitments; and Joy van der Wyk has replaced Victor Skowronski as Treasurer.

Other highlights:

- 13/03 - attended Community Cabinet Meeting in Toowoomba - canvassed support of *Pathways to Sustainability Expo*
- 14/03 - commenced weekly meetings of Expo Organising Committee - all welcome to attend
- 16/03 - HOPE information display at USQ
- 17/03 & 24/03 - *Going Solar* seminars
- 26/03 - HOPE information display at USQ's *Earth Hour* event
- 11/04 - HOPE Executive meeting
- 13/04 - Public Information Forum - Howard Nielsen on *Green Street* program

Pathways to Sustainability Expo - Sunday, 5 June 2011

University of Southern Queensland, West St, Toowoomba; from 10am to 4pm

Major aspects of Expo include information displays; demonstrations, workshops; speakers programs; trade exhibits; *Green Street Cafe*; children's activities, entertainment; free showbags; AND a Youth Sustainability Roundtable hosted by Queensland Youth Environment Council (QYEC) and Condamine Alliance.

Please take note of the HOPE activities scheduled over the next few months (as per Date Claimers below) and transform your support into **participation**.

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.

Date Claimers:

11 May - Public Information Forum - Rob McCreath, Friends of Felton, on *the Future of the Toowoomba Region - quarry or clean energy centre*

7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

5 June - Pathways to Sustainability Expo, USQ, West St, Toowoomba (10am - 4pm)

18 June - General Meeting, 3pm at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

Feature Article

60 Leicester Street, Carlton – Victoria (Ph: 03 9347 6033 Email: gpb@60Lgreenbuilding.com)
by Victor Skowronski



Australia's Leading Example of Commercial Building for a Sustainable Future

Although environmental sustainability has become very much a part of the mainstream when it comes to residential building, the commercial sector has moved much more slowly. This has been due to concerns that moving away from standard practice is too risky and will introduce difficulties in procurement, design and material specification, which in turn will result in increased costs and affect commercial viability.

Commercial Viability

This view has been disproved in the construction of Sixty Leicester Street, Carlton, Victoria. This building, "60L" as it has become known, is the premier green commercial building in Australia, and is an outstanding example of a commercially viable office building having a low environmental impact. 60L, set in central Melbourne, provides 3375 square metres of usable floor space on four floors. The building shell itself is partly new, and partly refurbished from a nineteenth-century, heritage-listed factory.

The total project cost was only 5% above that of a non-green building of a comparative standard. This additional cost is directly attributable to the R&D effort associated with the "prototype" nature of the building, and the developers believe that it can be eliminated in future projects by utilizing the knowledge gained in the construction of 60L. Even when individual features have initially cost more than would be the case in a standard commercial building, the benefits provided include reduced operating costs, reduced maintenance and a significantly healthier working environment. The low energy, environmentally sound choices taken during design mean 60L's total energy consumption is expected to be 65% lower than a traditional office building of the same size, and that the building is effectively 'future-proofed' against rises in the cost of energy, water and waste disposal.

Water Conservation

Rain water is collected from the roof, stored in two 10,000 litre tanks on the ground floor, and then filtered and sterilized for use by tenants. A waste water treatment plant in the building provides recycled water for flushing toilets and irrigating the roof garden. This system reduces the need for mains water by 90% in an average rainfall year. Significant mains water use is expected only during extreme situations such as drought or the operation of the building's fire sprinkler system. Before waste water leaves the building it is passed through a biological treatment process as part of the developer's commitment to the principle of dealing with the waste one produces rather than passing it on for someone else to deal with.

Energy Efficiency

60L achieves high energy efficiency by maximizing daylight throughout the building and employing passive cooling techniques.

North and west facing facades include large glass areas to take advantage of winter sun. A large inner atrium with light wells also brings sunlight into the core of the building.

The building is cooled by a smart natural ventilation system that cuts down on the need for artificial heating and cooling for most of the year. The design includes a large central atrium which allows air to flow across tenancies from the light wells into the atrium from where it is vented to the atmosphere through four thermal chimneys. 60L has its own weather station linked to the building automation system which then controls louvre windows facing all sides, adjusting the intake of air to achieve the most comfortable mix for tenants. It also allows heat that builds up during the day in brick and concrete to be vented at night.

Tenants can also control their own air flows through large areas of opening windows in the office spaces. For those occasions when outside temperatures become excessive, tenancies have small domestic-sized air conditioners.

60L's electricity comes from a green power provider and from a rooftop solar array providing about 10% of the total needs. In times of low demand, the solar array puts energy back into the electricity grid, further reducing operating costs.

Building Materials

Building materials especially selected for use in the construction of 60L include:

- Concrete floors and columns composed of a minimum of 60% of recycled aggregate material, much of which is recycled concrete;
- Re-used and recycled bricks (most reclaimed from the existing buildings on the site). Brickwork is prepared and cleaned without the use of chemicals or acids;
- reinforcing steel in the concrete is made from recycled steel;
- Hardwood timber used in window and door frames, stair treads and flooring has been recycled from the old building at 60 Leicester Street, and other building sites;
- PVC has been eliminated to a significant extent in electrical conduit, light fittings and pipe-work for the water and waste water systems, but remains in electrical wiring;
- Materials from renewable sources and materials emitting low levels of volatile organic chemicals have been used whenever possible. Care has been taken during construction to minimize the use of materials containing volatile organic chemicals such as glues, adhesives, sealants, paints and solvents.

Working Environment

The 60L building creates a healthy working environment. Many of the factors that contribute to so called 'sick building syndrome' - air conditioning cooling towers, out-gassing fabrics and particle boards and a wide range of other materials - have been reduced or eliminated.

This should result in productivity benefits for those working in 60L. Many studies have established a very real relationship between the physical and mental performance of people and the built environment in which they operate. Several overseas studies have put the benefits at between 5-15% productivity improvement per occupant. If 60L can achieve this for its tenants, these savings will be many times greater than all the energy savings combined.

The Future

The design and construction of 60L has proved that environmentally sustainable building design and construction techniques can be applied in the commercial building sector, resulting in commercially viable office buildings having a low environmental impact and providing excellent working environments for tenants. Hopefully this building will encourage other developers to follow the path to environmental sustainable buildings in the future.

Queensland News

Myrtle rust

Myrtle rust is now confirmed on 46 sites in Queensland including production and retail nurseries, residential, business, government and public land locations. The infected sites are located in the following local government areas: Gold Coast, Redlands, Brisbane, Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast, South Burnett, Scenic Rim and Cairns

Myrtle rust has now been diagnosed on 30 different species of myrtaceous plants including many plants that are commonly found in gardens. These plant species include: **Lillypilly**, **Willow myrtle**, **Thready bark myrtle**, **Scrub cherry** and **Lemon scented myrtle**.

[View the full list of known host plants for myrtle rust](#) and [photo gallery of affected plants](#).

Biosecurity Queensland encourages members of the public to become familiar with the details of myrtle rust and the plants it is likely to affect, and to report suspected infections.

Please call the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23 to report any suspected sightings of myrtle rust.

Myrtle rust cannot be eradicated, as it produces large numbers of spores that are easily spread by wind, human activity and animals. However, Biosecurity Queensland needs to know if you think you have seen myrtle rust to determine the extent to which it has spread and learn more about the disease.

For more information visit Biosecurity Queensland [website](#).

Green Journey Community News

Green Journey Community News is a monthly newsletter aimed at connecting residents, farmers, educators and organisations with sustainable options within their communities in the Sunshine Coast and SEQ region. The newsletter provides a free event listing and relevant activities including what's on in the upcoming month relating to:

- *Community Gardens* including workshops, volunteering and growing your own food in a plot;
- *Permaculture Groups & Transition Towns* to share practical skills about organic gardening, seed saving, food security and building resilient communities;
- *Farm Tours & Local Food Systems* to enable consumers to connect with farmers & fresh produce;
- *Workshops and Courses* (many are free) on everything from worm farming & composting to self reliance and renewable energy;
- *Garden, Food & Environmental events* and *Native Landcare* groups;
- *School Gardens, Garden Clubs* and *Farmers Markets*

as well as relevant information on green topics.

Subscription is free by visiting www.greenjourney.com.au or send an email to: anne@greenjourney.com.au. Individuals, groups and organisations can also submit relevant events for promotion. Sponsors welcome.

Condamine Crusaders are on the rise

Condamine Alliance recently announced that eight high schools from across the Condamine catchment have been successful in becoming 'Condamine Crusaders'.

The 'Condamine Crusaders—Students caring for our environment' program launched last year will allow high school students to promote positive environmental action in their school and community.

Condamine Alliance's CEO, Phil McCullough said "We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to high schools throughout the Condamine catchment."

"As the leaders of tomorrow it is imperative that young people understand and are prepared to act upon the environmental issues that we face and can be creative in developing effective local solutions," said Mr McCullough.

Students were invited to apply for funds of \$500 to start an environment club or \$1000 for an existing group to carry out an environmental project at their school.

"Environmental projects completed by Condamine Crusaders will address issues that are important to youth today and create local solutions to help the environment as well as the school and the community", said Mr McCullough.

Other high school students from across the Condamine catchment are encouraged to consider becoming Condamine Crusaders in 2011. For further information visit the [Condamine Alliance website](#).

Food security in Australia

Food is an essential part of everyday life. However, recent flooding in Queensland and Victoria has severely damaged crops, disrupted food distribution and reminded all Australians of the vulnerabilities of our food system.

To learn more about how to make the food supply in South East Queensland more sustainable, Griffith University are holding a community forum. Speakers include:

- Queensland Conservation Council's (QCC), Jeff Poole-to discuss QCC's Grow Local program which aims to improve food security across the SEQ region.
- Emeritis Professor David Burch-to discuss food security issues in SE Queensland, including: government policy on the resilience of the food system during times of emergencies; global sourcing by supermarkets; food miles; social impacts and the implications of long supply chains for food security.

This free community forum will be held at 6pm on 14 April at the Griffith University EcoCentre, on Nathan Campus. To RSVP phone the EcoCentre on 3735 7992 or email L.Malcolm@griffith.edu.au

Special Request

Environmental challenges ahead

Is climate change or natural resource degradation and depletion the greatest environmental challenge facing Australia? Initial analysis of the preliminary results of the Environmental Challenges survey states that climate change is of the greatest concern for the majority of the Australian environmental managers and researchers surveyed to date.

However, concerns over allocation of water resources, land degradation, impact to ecosystem services and loss of biodiversity were also prominent. To have your say visit the [online survey](#). It takes 10-15 minutes to complete and closes soon, on 6 May.

Further information will be provided at the [Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges conference](#) from 8-9 June, at the Southern Cross University, Lismore, Northern New South Wales.

Office Hours

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National News

[Join the Petition - Price Carbon Pollution for a Cleaner Future](#)

Climate change is one of the most pressing economic, social and environmental challenges we face. Australians will be hit hard if we don't respond with urgent and decisive action to reduce carbon pollution. Add your signature and say yes to a price on pollution, say yes to clean energy, and say yes to protecting our wildlife and environmental icons like the Great Barrier Reef! With your help, we can convince the federal government that Australians support a price on pollution and that the future of our precious species and places is important to us. Let your voice be heard today!

Atlas of Australian Birds by Andrew Silcocks, *Atlas Coordinator reports:*

Birds Australia is one of many different organisations which have entered into a partnership with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). The ALA was developed in response to the need for more comprehensive and accessible information on Australia's biodiversity. This improved accessibility and usability will allow anyone to locate, access and combine information on many aspects of biodiversity online. Birds Australia's Atlas data is being integrated with other contributor's datasets, while state of the art tools are being developed that will enhance research and management possibilities.

The relationship is hugely beneficial to the Atlas project in terms of providing technical support as well as allowing us to build and enhance the project. One example of this is our work with Gaia Resources through the BA Citizen Science Portal. Together we are developing web portals which will allow for the online collection of project data. Many different Birds Australia projects collect data in a slightly different format. These portals will allow each project to collect the desired information, which will then be passed onto the ALA. To take part go to <http://birdsaustralia.org.au/>.

The power of the ALA mapping system can be viewed at the following website:

www.ala.org.au/explore/species-maps/. The interactive map allows you to select a desired area and then overlay records of flora and fauna species. An amazing variety of environmental, climatic, vegetation, and other layers are available to be placed over the map and then analysis tools allow you to interpret the data. This is truly a wonderful resource which will ensure environmental data is readily available and can be utilised by researchers and the general public alike.

[What to do with e-waste! - ReNew magazine reuse your TV competition](#)

ReNew magazine 115 has just hit the newsstands and features a novel reader competition. With old analogue televisions being thrown out across the country, *ReNew* magazine wants your ideas for recycling these old sets into something new and useful. The reader with the best idea wins a \$200 voucher from [Enviroshop!](#) For more information go to: www.renew.org.au

"A new brand of environmental radicalism"

Clive Hamilton, author and Professor of Public Ethics at the [Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics](#) at Charles Sturt University, is convinced that we urgently need a new passionate and committed group of advocates willing to fight long and hard for positive action on Climate Change. Hamilton argues that the debate has been seriously jeopardized by "the right-wing ideologists of the Liberal Party and their apologists in the media who see it as a profound threat to the structure of the world they are committed to the world of free-market capitalism, limited government, unlimited consumption, and the subordination of nature". He believes that the environment movement in this country has been weakened and has lost ground because it has been willing to accept the feeble government targets and the over-generous concessions granted to the biggest polluters. There is also now a new "political class" of staffers and spin doctors within the environmental organisations who have become professional lobbyists who are often remote and detached from their members aims and commitments. Until Environmental Organisations fully grasp and return to their historic mission willing

and are willing to 'put their bodies on the line' they will continue to be found wanting in this, their most urgent and greatest test."

Read more at <http://www.crikey.com.au/2011/02/22/hamilton-we-need-a-new-brand-of-environmental-radicalism/>

Also read Clive Hamilton's five part series

http://www.clivehamilton.net.au/cms/media/documents/articles/abc_denialism_series_complete.pdf

Strategic Audit - Structures for Sustainability 2011 Report

Looking at how our Government departments and agencies have implemented their environmental management systems, the Structures for Sustainability 2011 audit report has been released.

The report was prepared by Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Professor Kate Auty.

"The results of this audit show indications of progress. For example, in 2009-10 there was a 3% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in offices and a 3% decrease in emissions travelled per 1,000 kilometres from the government's car fleet," Professor Auty said.

The report discusses the characteristics of organisational structures and organisational cultures that contribute to successful environmental management.

It also includes case studies from the following agencies: Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, Public Record Office Victoria, Museum Victoria, State Library Victoria, the Victorian Electoral Commission and Film Victoria.

Download the [Strategic Audit](#).

World News

Earth Hour 2011 - One Hour of Darkness Spreads Light Around the World

Icons from the Sydney Harbour Bridge to our four Antarctica stations went dark and globally a record 134 countries and territories took part. Official participation by Australian cities and councils surpassed 2010. Strong sign ups from businesses, schools and individuals, made this year's rest for the earth an overwhelming success! Earth Hour reached out to people to go [Beyond the Hour](#) and commit to long term action for the future of our planet. The [WWF Earth Hour Awards](#) celebrated grassroots 'beyond the hour' action taken by Australians for a more sustainable future. Our Prime Minister even lent her voice to Earth Hour, vowing she will go beyond the hour by "doing everything in my power to deliver a carbon price."

Surging renewable sector pulls even with nuclear power in U.S

<http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2011/04/nuclear-power-vs-renewable-energy>

Renewable fuels pulled even with nuclear power in 2010, based on federal data of total domestic production. But nuclear still powers 20 percent of U.S. grid, while wind and solar are barely on the map.

Economist Magazine Feature on Global Food Security

This well respected magazine recently produced a feature on the global food security issue called "The 9 Billion-people question - A special report on feeding the world". This in report is well worth a read and can be found at:

<http://www.saipatform.org/uploads/Modules/Library/Economist%20Special%20Report%20on%20Food%20Security%20FEB26.pdf> .

Resources

Book Reviews

New Climate Change Books from Earthscan:

[World on the Edge: How to Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse](#)

By Lester Brown

"World on the Edge" calls out the pivotal environmental issues and how to solve them now. We are in a race between political and natural tipping points. Can we close coal-fired power plants fast enough to save the Greenland ice sheet and avoid catastrophic sea level rise? Can we cope with peak water and peak oil at the same time? Bringing decades of research and analysis into play, Lester Brown provides the responses needed to reclaim our future.

[Making the Most of the Water We Have](#)

The Soft Path Approach to Water Management

Edited By David B. Brooks, Oliver M. Brandes and Stephen Gurman

Based on the "soft path" approach to the energy sector, a transition is now under way to a soft path for water. This approach starts by ensuring that ecosystem needs for water are satisfied and then undertakes a radical approach to reducing human uses of water by economic and social incentives, including open decision-making, water markets and equitable pricing, and the application of super-efficient technology, all applied in ways that avoid jeopardizing quality of life. The soft path for water is therefore a management strategy that frees up water by curbing water waste. This book is the first to present and apply the water soft path approach. It has three aims: to bring to a wider audience the concept and the potential of water soft paths; to demonstrate that soft path analysis is analytical and practical, and not just "eco-dreaming"; and to indicate that soft paths are not only conceptually attractive but that they can be made economically and politically feasible. Includes a tool kit for planners and other practitioners.

Forthcoming - April 22nd 2011:

[Climate Change Denial](#)

Written by Haydn Washington, and John Cook. John's work formed the basis of the www.skepticalscience.com website which aims to communicate the peer-reviewed science to a broader audience. The book contains a detailed examination of the principal climate change denial arguments, empowering readers to combat denial and move forward.

New from CSIRO Publishing:

[Demographic Change in Australia's Rural Landscapes](#)

Implications for Society and the Environment

By Digby Race, Rosemary Black, Gary W Luck

Examines broad and local-scale patterns of demographic change in rural landscapes.

[Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change](#)

By Peter Calthorpe

Progressive ideas on sustainable and humane built environments by a well-known thought leader.

[An Introduction to Sustainable Resource Use](#)

By Callum Hill

Explores the challenges our society faces in making the transition to renewable resource use in a way that is truly sustainable.

Web resources, by Lyn Spence and Chris Withers

Clean Up Australia

Every year, on the first Sunday of March, hundreds of thousands of Australians of all ages come together to clean up and remove rubbish from their local environment. Individuals and local groups can either organise a Clean Up site or volunteer to join an existing site. **Clean Up Australia** has now become largest community environmental-event of its kind in Australia. It works to foster relationships between the community, business and government to address the environmental issues of waste, water and climate change. Since its inception in 1989 by Ian Kiernan and co-founder Kim McKay, Clean Up Australia has continued to steadily grow and develop and now includes other projects and campaigns including Business Clean Up Day, Schools Clean Up Day, Clean Up the Alps, Clean Up mobile phones, Clean Up our Climate and [Clean Up the World](#). It also suggests that we say 'No' to bottled water and plastic bags, encourages the use of 'green' products and supports National Container Deposit legislation.

In 1993, Ian Kiernan and Kim McKay approached the United Nations Environment Program, with an idea to take his Clean Up concept global. Now, on the 3rd week of September each year, more than 35 million people from over 120 countries participate in the international event and clean up, fix up and conserve their environment through its World Membership program.

More information about the organisation including its campaigns, activities, newsletters, emission calculators, fact sheets etc can be found at the website - <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/>

" There is not one individual who cannot help to make a difference to the health of the environment"
Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman and Founder, Clean Up Australia.

Planet Ark

Planet Ark, founded in 1992, works with people and business to teach them the simple and effective ways to reduce their impact on the planet, at home, at work and in the community. Whether through recycling, planting trees or changing to energy efficient light globes, small changes to individual behaviour add up to big savings for the environment. Planet Ark is best known for its high profile recycling campaigns like 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark', 'Cards 4 Planet Ark', 'National Recycling Week', 'Festive recycling' and the country's biggest annual community tree-planting event, 'National Tree Day'. The 'Recycling Near You' website has information about what you can and can't recycle in your local area and lists the drop-off locations for a wide range of items including; electronic goods, white goods, furniture, plus much more. You can search the site by typing in your postcode, council area, state, suburb, or by the item you wish to recycle. Details of their campaigns, news, newsletters, green products as well as the link to 'recycling near you' can be found at their website at <http://planetark.org/>

The Australian Conservation Foundation

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is a non-profit organisation that works with business, the community and government to find solutions to environmental problems through research, consultation and education. On its website the ACF states that our "wonderful natural environment is in decline, our rivers degraded and water is being used beyond nature's capacity to provide it. The next few years are critical if we are to avoid wide-reaching impacts on our environment, our society and our economy. ..., ACF has analysed the growing threats to our great continent and developed a strategy to steer us on a different course. We believe that Australia can achieve sustainability within a generation, but must start the transition now for real progress to be realised within the next few years. ... If we all become part of the solution, it is within our grasp. There is simply no alternative if the Australia we love is to continue as we know it. ACF believes that a dynamic and innovative Australia has the potential to make the transition to a sustainable way of life that is better for communities and businesses. We invite all Australians to share in this vision and become part of the solution." To

read the newsletters, media releases, subscribe to ACF , take action or find further information on ways to help the planet go to the website at <http://www.acfonline.org.au/default.asp>

Humane Society International

(HSI) is one of the only international animal protection organizations in the world working to protect all animals—including wildlife, animals in laboratories, farm animals, companion animals and those impacted by the natural and man-made disasters that are constantly occurring around the world. Through education, advocacy and empowerment, HSI aims to forge a lasting and comprehensive change in human consciousness and behavior; to relieve animal suffering and to prevent animal cruelty, abuse, neglect and exploitation. HSI is a regular and active participant in meetings of international bodies such as the [International Whaling Commission](#), the [Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species](#), and the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#), and has a Category I A General Consultative Status with the [United Nations](#). Some of the articles in the latest HIS Newsletter (March, 2011) include The Delhi elephant Sanctuary, Gorillas, Queensland floods and cyclone Yasi, Free-range produce, Albatross Conservation, Food labelling and a review of the book 'Simpson's donkey - A wartime journey to Gallipoli and beyond' with 50% of the royalties from this book towards the work HIS funds through SPANA, the organisation at the forefront of animal protection in war zones. HSI website: <http://hsi.org.au/>

Earth Policy Institute

The Earth Policy Institute is an environmental organisation based in Washington DC, founded by Lester R. Brown in 2001. It writes on weekly articles regarding environmental indicators and ways to move civilization to a sustainable path both environmentally and economically. The Institute is a nonprofit that provides articles, data resources, and select free downloads of their books on their website. The EPI has 3 primary goals(1) to provide a global plan (Plan B) for moving the world onto an environmentally and economically sustainable path, (2) to provide examples demonstrating how the plan would work, and (3) to keep the media, policymakers, academics, environmentalists, and other decision-makers focused on the process of building a Plan B economy. What is Plan B? Glad you asked. Plan B is the book designed to send a clear message. Download your free copy of many of their publications and read more about EPI follow them on their website at www.earth-policy.org .

Queensland Conservation Council

In 1969 a small group of people got together to share ideas. They were bushwalkers, divers, nature lovers and geologists who shared a growing concern that the things which made Queensland unique were being lost.

More than forty years later the group they founded is Queensland's leading voice for environmental protection by plugged in to what conservationists want and how government works. Fiercely independent and totally focussed on protecting, conserving and sustaining the nature of Queensland. A fantastic website full of links and information relating to environmental issues and activities that everyone can contribute to. Links for local and state wide events allow you to program your involvement. Sign up for their newsletter and find out more about the Queensland Conservation Council at www.qccqld.org.au

CANA- Climate Action Network Australia

CANA was formed in 1998 to be the Australian branch of the global [CAN network](#), with representative groups in over 70 nations. An alliance of over 65 regional, state and national environmental, health, community development, and research groups from throughout Australia working together to promote action on climate change. It is the Australian arm of Climate Action Network International. By adding value to the work of member NGOs working on climate change in Australia by (1) Enabling groups to come together to identify areas where a joint approach would be valuable and where they might work together; and (2) Sharing resources (including knowledge, funding and staff) to achieve joint outcomes. Loaded with information and links, the CANA website is a great

visit for more information and access to join their email group and volunteer to assist. Have a look at www.cana.net.au .

Getup.org.au - Want something different? Visit *Getup!*

GetUp is a not for profit, independent, grass-roots community advocacy organisation giving everyday Australians opportunities to get involved and hold politicians accountable on important issues. *GetUp* receives no funds from any political party but relies solely on funds and donations from the Australian public.

Whether it is sending an email to a member of parliament, engaging with the media, attending an event or helping to get a television ad on the air, *GetUp* members take targeted, coordinated and strategic action. *GetUp* does not back any particular party, but aims to build an accountable and progressive Parliament - a Parliament with economic fairness, social justice and environment at its core.

Current issues include Counter the polluter lobby; Champions of Truth

<http://www.getup.org.au/campaign/EndMandatoryDetention&id=818>; [Copenhagen](#); [New Name - Same Old Coal](#); [Lets Act On It](#); [Homelands](#); [ReEnergise Australia](#); [Political Donations](#); [Censordyne](#); [Economic Fairness](#); [2009 Vision Survey](#); [Fuel Watch](#); [Equal Pay For Women](#); [Promise Watch](#); [Equal Before the Law](#) For more information visit www.getup.org.au

Helpful hints and tips

[Guide to healing herbs](#)

We may habitually rush out to the chemist at the first onset of a cold or headache, but when it comes to mending a minor ailment, a fix may very well be found first in your own backyard.

[Bicarb soda blitz](#)

Break out the box of bicarb soda and discover its incredible grime-busting properties.

Companion Planting by Lisa Passmore, , *Inspired by Nature*, <http://www.inspiredbynature.biz/about.php> ,

Companion planting is the method of promoting healthy plants by growing together plants that are mutually beneficial. There are various ways plants can benefit each other:

- Some plants can attract pests away from the 'desired' plants or may repel (or confuse) pests by the aromatic compounds they release - from their leaves, roots or flowers.
 - Other plants encourage natural predators.
 - A plant with strong deep roots may break up heavy soil and make nutrients available to other plants.
 - Some herbaceous plants (e.g. Borage) attract bees, which help to pollinate other plants.
 - Tall varieties can provide shade to lower growing varieties.
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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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