



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2013 #7 --- 26 August 2013

The following items have been gathered 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Hello all,

This enews bulletin has a bit of everything. There are articles about recycling and packaging, consumerism, mining and sustainable buildings. You'll also find some pieces about a few great 'green' organisations that are supported by HOPE and vice versa. And if you're looking for something active, check out the Centre for Growing Sustainably's workshops or go WWOOFing!

Miriam Sharp, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September

[National Biodiversity Month](#) - all month

1 - [National Wattle Day](#)

5 - [Walk to Work Day](#)

8 - [Sustainable House Day](#)

8 - [National Bilby Day](#)

14 – **HOPE Ordinary Meeting & lunchtime social**

16 - [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

21 - [World Parks Day](#)

22 - [World Car-Free Day](#)

23-27 - [World Maritime Day](#)

23-26 - [River Symposium](#) – The 16th International Riversymposium to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre provides an opportunity to look at the linkages that rivers provide to water-energy-food.

27-29 - [Queensland Landcare Conference 2013](#), Warwick

October

7 - [World Habitat Day](#)

4 - [World Animal Day](#)

13 - [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)

16 - [National Ride to Work Day](#)

[National Water Week](#) - third week in October

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

Please join us for morning tea and chat from 10am onwards. Phone the office on 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming.

Office News Report

What a busy and productive, but sometimes exhausting, month it has been for HOPE.

Office staff has been busy reviewing procedures and operational practices in an effort to streamline processes and the 'paper trail' reporting requirements.

A budget review meeting on 27 July highlighted the need for us to pursue corporate sponsorship; and investigate "an Annual Pledge" program and/or Donation facility on our website.

During August, we assisted the management committee with organising and staffing 6 environmental information displays - 5 in Toowoomba and one at the CREEC (Caboolture Regional Environmental Education Centre) Expo on 24th August.

HOPE's external outreach activities for member and supporter envNGOs include:

- on-forwarding key communiques and/or media releases;
- promoting a range of programs and events via our website; Facebook and e:news bulletin; and
- distributing envNGOs literature alongside ours at the events we attend.

In an effort to connect more regularly with our 'local' HOPE members and friends, we have started a weekly Monday morning tea program. This initiative coincides with our office's open hours and access to library resources. This week's theme is gardening and we are delighted to have Terry Ryan, a former chairperson of the Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Association (TCOGA) as our guest speaker. The HOPE office is located at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba and our next morning tea is Monday 26 August (today!!), commencing at 10am. As seats are limited, please RSVP as soon as you can. Contact Frank on (07) 4639 2135.

On the projects front, we are still in negotiation with:

- SQIT (Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE) Horticulture to stage 3 gardening workshops later this year; and
- USQ (University of Southern Queensland) to co-host next years' *Celebrating Our Environment Expo* on Wednesday 4 June 2014.
(A funding application for event support was submitted to Toowoomba Regional Council on 15 August)

Lastly, I invite you to attend the quarterly HOPE Ordinary Meeting and shared lunch at the home of Frank and Mary Ondrus, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba – with the meeting commencing at 11am sharp and lunch to follow around 12.30pm. A copy of the meeting's agenda, etc. will be emailed separately.

Frank Ondrus, President and acting Office Manager – HOPE Inc.

HOPE Reference Library

HOPE has a good collection of library reference material – both hard-copy (books, magazines, reports, DVDs) and electronic reports and newsletters. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, energy, Govt, landcare/NRM, MDB, mining, pest plants and animals, sustainable housing, waste and water. Hard-copy material is available from office; and electronic material is available by email. If you are chasing something specific, why not give us a call on 07 4639 2135 or send an email request to office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

By the way, we have a number of outstanding loans at present. Please return materials promptly to us at HOPE Office, PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350 or drop them off at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba.

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some of your time and talents to help share the workload!

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Feature Articles

[Walk against Warming](#), by Kara Daniell, HOPE supporter, Qld

The *Walk Against Warming* campaign began in early 2000's and was aimed at encouraging communities across Australia to speak up about their environmental concerns, to their politicians. This campaign began in a hope to push politicians into taking real action, regarding problems such as: greenhouse gas pollution, recycling, saving water and energy; as well as investing in alternative 'green' energy sources.

In 2010 people were asked to join a local group walk on Election Day at various political hotspots throughout Australia. Their main objectives were; putting a price on carbon (especially for big polluters), replace polluting powers stations with clean renewable energy sources, cutting pollution over the next government term (a political guarantee) and support poor, vulnerable countries in investing in sustainable resources.

While it appears that there is no activity from this organisation at the moment, it does not mean you can't do your bit to get involved. You can have a look at the Queensland Conservation Council's website to see if there are any projects you would like to lend a hand in (www.qldconservation.org.au). You can also keep up to date with your local politician's aims and how you can work with them to improve the environment.

Some More Ideas

With all the hype of an upcoming election it would probably be a great idea to get to know your local politicians. Understanding what they plan to do and compare the policies and stances of local members and candidates, both state and federal. Why not visit www.ecg.qld.gov.au/state.aspx to find your local state district and look them up on Facebook. Breaking the communication barrier between local environmental groups, activists and the government (councils) brings us one step closer to well informed leaders.

At home, you can focus as a family and a house hold on little projects such as: inventive ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. Getting children involved in worm farms, native tree planting, making nest boxes and being proud of looking after their environment.

As a group and environmentally conscious organisations; developing workshops, guest speakers and community events to increase awareness and volunteer recruitment, is a great initiative.

As members of HOPE why not tell us what you are interested in? Do you have a great idea for a workshop (e.g. how to build a worm farm or 6 easy steps to creating a native tree garden) why not email us? Is there an environmental topic you are interested in learning more about, tell us.

The main aim is to get involved with your community, like-minded people and your local politicians. Share your knowledge, ideas and inspiration and help us work together to become a society which genuinely cares for the environment.

A New Deal for Urban Australia, by Ruth Spielman, Executive Officer, National Growth Areas Alliance on behalf of the Urban Coalition

More than 80 per cent of Australia's population lives in cities that collectively generate over 80 per cent of our economic wealth.

The quality of life we know and love in our cities has been realised only because of the visionary planning, foresight and investment in infrastructure made by generations of Australians before us. However, many of the decisions that shaped our cities were made in response to the challenges of a different age: A booming agricultural industry; a newly industrialized manufacturing base; and the emerging dominance of the car.

Today, Australians more than ever before, are demanding more liveable cities and urban centres that better reflect the way we now live and how we want to live in the future. Driving this demand is the personal and collective experience we have of our cities day-to-day; lived through the social and economic costs of congestion; the reality of a growing and ageing population; the challenges created by outward urban growth, unaffordable housing, more frequent extreme weather events, and inadequate infrastructure.

These challenges are great, and demand leadership, vision and investment to help ensure our cities retain their status as some of the greatest places to live and work in the world. Our cities, like our regions, are part of our national fabric. It is our cities that drive national productivity, and it is through investment in the infrastructure that supports our cities that we can deliver a better deal for all Australians: through improved health, education and jobs.

A bi-partisan commitment to planning and delivering better cities; to working collaboratively with the states and territories, and with industry, to prioritise and fund the infrastructure we need for jobs, growth and a better way of life is now more urgent than ever.

The Urban Coalition is calling for leadership and investment. It is time to support a New Deal for Urban Australia.

The Urban Coalition, comprising the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council, Australian Conservation Foundation, Association of Building Sustainability Assessors, Consult Australia, Green Building Council of Australia, Institute of Architects, National Growth Areas Alliance, Planning Institute of Australia, Property Council of Australia and the Urban Development Institute of Australia, makes two key recommendations:

- Unlock private sector dollars through a new Urban Infrastructure Fund
- A stronger role for Infrastructure Australia and a new Federal Minister and Department for Cities and Urban Development incorporating the Major Cities Unit

Coal and Gas Mining in Australia, *by the Australia Institute, Aug 2013*

Mining has always been an important part of the Australian economy.

What has changed is the unprecedented scale and pace of its expansion. This is already irrevocably altering the Australian landscape and affecting food production, water security and communities across the nation.

The coal seam gas fields approved to date in Queensland will cover tens of thousands of square kilometers with an industrial grid of wells, pipelines, roads and water treatment plants. They will feed three huge gas processing plants being constructed within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area on Curtis Island. There are proposals to increase this threefold.

Australia is already the second largest coal exporter in the world, but with a series of “mega mines” there are plans to significantly increase the amount of coal we mine and export within the decade.

These huge projects are staggering in size. No one visiting Central Queensland or the Hunter Valley in NSW would be left in any doubt that they are transforming Australia’s rural landscape. However, it is the impacts that we don’t see that are often the most serious.

Coal mines and coal seam gas drilling disrupt aquifers that are essential to farmers and the natural environment. Coal mines are known to have discharged large amounts of contaminated water into our river systems, and no-one knows what to do with the huge amounts of contaminated water and salt that result from dewatering coal seams for gas drilling.

The human health impacts of coal are well documented and greenhouse gases that result from burning Australian coal and gas are a major contributor to climate change.

While these impacts are primarily social and environmental, they are also fundamentally economic issues. Industrialization of rural areas directly impacts on the agricultural and tourism industries, and damage to the environment and people’s health is ultimately paid for by the community.

The Australia Institute has always been concerned with a broad range of economic, social and environmental issues that are essential to Australia’s future. All of these are impacted in a multitude of ways by Australia’s coal and gas expansion.

State governments have had the primary responsibility for managing resource development in Australia, but have failed to find an appropriate balance between the interest of the mining industry and the rest of the community.

These activities will have a profound impact on all Australians for many generations. As such, we believe it is time to look carefully at how the Commonwealth government can protect our food, water, environment and communities.

The policy question that always motivates The Australia Institute is ‘what should be done?’ Over the past three years we have published dozens of research papers which highlight the economic, social and environmental consequences of the unprecedented expansion of the fossil fuel extraction industry. We are proud to publish this research by the Australian Network of Environmental Defender’s Offices to help start the conversation about what we need to do about it.

A copy of the full report is available at [this website](#).

WWF-Australia to represent environment sector at G20 civil society meetings

WWF-Australia CEO Dermot O’Gorman has been appointed to the steering committee of next year’s Australian Civil 20 (C20), a group formed to represent civil society at Brisbane’s 2014 G20 meetings. The government announced the make-up of the steering committee in preparation for Australia taking over the G20 Presidency later this year.

As the only environmental organisation on the C20 Steering Committee, WWF-Australia will be engaging with the rest of the sector to ensure all voices from the Australian environment sector are represented.

“Thanks to the Australian Government, WWF-Australia has been given this unique chance to contribute to the G20 on behalf of the wider environment sector. It is a privilege to be able to represent so many accomplished organizations. As such we will be engaging widely with other environmental groups in the lead up to the C20 meetings to ensure our contributions are balanced and representative of the wider Australian environmental movement’s goals.

“As WWF is Chairing the C20 meetings in Russia this year, the Australian Government’s choice of WWF as the environmental representative on the Australian Steering Committee is an important way of ensuring continuity in this new civil society focused movement within the G20,” Mr O’Gorman added.

WWF-Australia will bring its strong history in sustainable development and focus on poverty reduction to the C20 meetings. “WWF has always believed that without addressing global inequality, we cannot address the most pressing environmental issues our planet faces. Unsustainable demands on the world’s resources is our defining environmental challenge but it also threatens the lives and livelihoods of the world’s poorest people including millions of neighbours in the Asia-Pacific,” Mr O’Gorman said.

Additionally, WWF will contribute to the C20’s consultations with Pacific NGO’s due to the organisation’s support of a number of projects throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These have included mangrove replanting, fisheries management and sustainable livelihoods programs in Melanesia, fisheries work in the Coral Triangle and sustainable mining, forestry, and oil palm in the Heart of Borneo.

“We look forward to representing the sector and joining with grassroots groups, non-governmental organisations, academics and other representatives of the Australian civil society landscape in bringing greater balance and transparency to next year’s G20 meetings. Following this we hope to continue to work with Australia’s international development groups to ensure sustainable development and environmental concerns have a deservedly large role in the post-Millennium Development Goal world,” said Mr O’Gorman.

WWF-Australia contact: Hamish Wyatt, Communications Officer 0414 544 911, hwyatt@wwf.org.au

→ *HOPE encourages its members, friends and colleagues to make submissions to WWF for inclusion in discussions at the G20 Civil Society meetings in 2014.*

Advertisement



The Meter Man
Our business is about supplying instruments and books to help farmers and everyday gardeners to monitor their crops and produce better quality food - vegetables, fruit, etc. In turn, this improves the overall health of the land and the wildlife of the area. It will also improve the health of those people eating the produce - so less disease, illness, etc.

David von Pein - **The Meter Man**
Email: dvp3@bigpond.com ; website: www.themeterman.com.au, ph 07 4635 7065

General

The Australia Institute

The Australia Institute is an independent public policy think tank based in Canberra. It is funded by donations from philanthropic trusts and individuals, memberships and commissioned research. Since its launch in 1994, the Institute has carried out highly influential research on a broad range of economic, social and environmental issues.

Our philosophy

As we begin the 21st century, new dilemmas confront our society and our planet. Unprecedented levels of consumption co-exist with extreme poverty. Through new technology we are more connected than we have ever been, yet civic engagement is declining. Environmental neglect continues despite heightened ecological awareness. A better balance is urgently needed. The Australia Institute's directors, staff and supporters represent a broad range of views and priorities. What unites us is a belief that through a combination of research and creativity we can promote new solutions and ways of thinking.

Our purpose—'Research that matters'

The Institute aims to foster informed debate about our culture, our economy and our environment and bring greater accountability to the democratic process. Our goal is to gather, interpret and communicate evidence in order to both diagnose the problems we face and propose new solutions to tackle them. The Institute is wholly independent and not affiliated with any other organisation. As an Approved Research Institute, donations to its Research Fund are tax deductible for the donor. Anyone wishing to donate can do so via the website at <https://www.tai.org.au> or by calling the Institute on 02 6206 8700. Our secure and user-friendly website allows donors to make either one-off or regular monthly donations and we encourage everyone who can to donate in this way as it assists our research in the most significant manner.

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Planet Ark

Planet Ark is an Australian not-for-profit Environmental organisation which was founded in 1992. Planet Ark Environmental Foundation aims to work with people and businesses to teach them the simple ways in which they can reduce their impact on the planet, at home, at work and in the community. You may recognise some of their programs such as Cartridges 4 Planet Ark.

This is a program where businesses and individuals can submit their used printer toner cartridges to a recycled cardboard box and the cartridges are disposed of in an environmentally positive fashion. These boxes are also used for individuals to dispose of mobile phones, batteries and accessories. It has been quite a successful endeavour and one of the most well-known programs. Planet Ark also uses initiatives such as Lamp Recyclers Ezy-Return which allows fluorescent lamps to be disposed of in a manner which is safe for the environment and the population. Individuals can send their old tubes, in reply-paid lamp recycling packs, to Planet Ark and they will dispose of them.

National Recycling Week is coming up again and this year it will run 11-17 November. NRW is about promoting recycling initiatives for businesses and individuals and will also assist in providing the tools to minimise waste and manage material resources responsibly at home, work and school. Previous recycling weeks have been quite popular and the best part about this initiative? It can all start with doing one little thing at a time. Laundry detergent bottles everywhere at home? Use the one bottle and buy refills instead of new bottles each time. Soft drink bottles? Use them to store water in the fridge, keep dogs off your beloved gardens or throw them in the yellow-lid recycling bins, not the green ones. Every little item helps. If you are interested in what Planet Ark is doing with your local community, please go to www.recyclingnearyou.com.au and you will be able to find an event in your local area. Alternatively, you can find them online at www.planetark.org or if you prefer the old-fashioned way, call them on 02 8484 7200, write to them at PO BOX R988, Royal Exchange, NSW 1225 or visit them in person at Level 3, 15-17 Young St, SYDNEY NSW 2000. Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/planetark> Twitter - @PlanetArk

[The Weed's Network](#)

The Weed's Network is passionate about a sustainable, viable and creative future in our relationship with weeds. Through a spirit of willing exploration we foster ways to better understand weeds so they become a resource we can manage with environment and future generations in mind. The Weed's Network provides evidence-based information for innovative ways of thinking about, engaging with and managing weeds sustainably.

[Reverse Garbage Co-op Ltd, Brisbane](#)

Reverse Garbage Brisbane is a not-for-profit worker run co-operative that promotes environmental sustainability and resource reuse. Essentially, the organisation collects high quality industrial discards, diverting them away from landfill and sells them at a low cost to the general public. Education is at the core of the organisation with environment and waste focused art workshops forming a large part of the business. Reverse Garbage also offers a mail order service and hosts retail space, Reverse Emporium.

Friends of the Earth (FoE), Brisbane have a long standing relationship with Reverse Garbage. It's initiator and co-founder John Hepburn was an active member of FoE, Brisbane at the time of its inception and Reverse Garbage was established to provide both financial and infrastructural support for FoE's core activities and campaigns. The two organisations are housed in the same building and support for Friends of the Earth, Brisbane is written into Reverse Garbage's constitution.

Also set up to provide meaningful and ecologically sustainable employment, Reverse Garbage strives to be an example of a truly sustainable enterprise. Social sustainability is practiced through a worker-managed co-operative model that encourages workplace equity. There is no manager, or external board and business decisions are made by worker-directors using a consensus decision-making model. Currently there are ten workers, seven of whom are member-directors, one a non-director member and three working their way towards becoming member-directors.

As a not-for-profit, any surplus produced by the business goes into improving and expanding their work and supporting FoE, Brisbane. To ensure long-term financial sustainability Reverse Garbage does not accept external financial support for the core business although donations are occasionally solicited for one-off projects.

Reverse Garbage's education programs aim to shift attitudes surrounding our treatment of the environment. Facilitators introduce creative ways to reuse that inspire and educate others to re-think the way that they think about waste. These workshops are run by facilitators in schools, childcare centres, public libraries at festivals and clubs throughout South East Queensland as well as internally every school holidays.

The mail order service was developed as a means of reaching people outside of South East Queensland and themed barrels were developed to compliment the workshop programs. Heavy-duty cardboard barrels suitable for painting, collage and decorating are filled with clean industrial discards and sent all over Australia. Each barrel also includes an educational flyer with information on waste and the benefits of re-use.

Retail space, Reverse Emporium provides an avenue for local artists, craft workers and designers who salvage, reuse and up-cycle materials to exhibit and sell their works and wares. Reverse Emporium stocks gorgeous high quality art, jewellery, accessories, furniture, home wares, gifts and trinkets that are perfect for the eco-conscious buyer and runs a quarterly series of exhibitions to showcase the work of these talented Brisbane artists.

The co-operative, now in it's 14th year, was originally housed in Montague Road, West End. Reverse Garbage relocated to 20 Burke Street, Woolloongabba in early 2011 at the end of their lease and to allow for expansion. Current plans include fundraising to buy their own building to secure independence and financial stability for both organisations.

Website: www.reversegarbage.com.au ; Facebook: www.facebook.com/reversegarbage

Location: 20 Burke Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

Phone: 07 3891 9744

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm

[National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme](#)

The **National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme** involves a combination of government regulation and industry action to take responsibility for the collection and recycling of waste televisions, computers, printers and computer products. Under the Scheme, householders and small business can drop-off these items for free at designated access points, which may include permanent collection sites, take-back events or through a mail-back option.

[Sydney Water Corporate Headquarters, NSW](#)

A case study in Green Building. Explore the Sydney Water Corporate Headquarters. "Given the nature of our business, water consumption was a key area to be targeted through the Green Star process. Our Green Star office is helping us to 'walk the talk' on water efficiency, and lead by sustainable example," says Sydney Water Facilities Management and Maintenance Manager, Craig Heitmann.



[Revving Up Battery Recycling](#)

Australia consumes more than 7.6 million car batteries every year. Used lead-acid batteries are classified as hazardous waste containing about 2-3 litres of sulfuric acid as well as lead, so keeping them out landfill is essential. What's the best way to recycle them? Check out [this article](#).

Lock the Gate Alliance – video release

We're launching a stunning short video that is a teaser for the release of our two groundbreaking new films: *Undermining Australia* and *Fractured Country*. [Watch it here on our special launch website](#). The two films capture in stark terms the personal heartache of Australians whose lives have been changed forever by coal and gas mining and the heroic actions everyday people are taking to defend the country they love.

Getting Off the Consumerism Cycle, by Pam Marshall – [The Self Sufficiency Shoppe](#)

Well the good news is: We can release ourselves from the power of advertising and consumerism – here's a few tips:

- 1. Decide** - Make a concerted decision that its time to break from the cycle of 'consumerism' (and advertising manipulation) to a better life of emotional freedom.
- 2. Observe** - The 'advertising manipulation techniques' and our responses. It's all around us – make a mental note so that the 'control' is less.
- 3. Be aware** of the 'vulnerability of desire'. It blinds clear thinking. While we 'long' for something we are vulnerable. There's a difference between 'need' and 'want'. Happiness is not necessarily all about materialism and consumerism.
- 4. Change shopping habits**. Avoid large supermarkets and department stores that use powerful advertising. Shop at smaller stores, markets, etc. (They could do with the extra support anyway - big retailers have been slowly eroding sales from smaller businesses)
- 5. Shop by morals instead of emotions** - stop allowing 'cheaper' prices to influence shopping choices. A few dollars gained here and there is a huge price to pay for loss of human values and morality. Purchase Australian-made and/or environmentally responsible items or goods with less packaging. Buy based upon 'personal morals' and judgement about what's right and wrong rather than the advertising jargon and manipulation that's in the media.
- 6. 'Make your own'** and/or find cheaper, natural alternatives (whether it be food, personal goods, cosmetics, etc.). There are plenty of options available and its particularly good for the planet!

To Finish: It's easier to stay on the powerful consumer cycle then get off! It's easier to 'go with the flow' than to resist and change. But if a significant number of people applied these simple techniques advertising would soon loose its power and better it will be for us all – and for the planet.

[Proper packaging can reduce food waste](#)

A recent university study has found that packaging has a vital role to play in minimising food waste within the supply chain.

Queensland News

Centre for Growing Sustainability workshops

Start at 9am to 11.30am, followed by Morning Tea. Cost per Workshop - \$25.00 CGS Members, \$35.00 Non Members --Includes – Notes, morning tea and take home gift. (seeds, plants, other products)

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER	DESCRIPTION
Sat 31 st August	Delightful Dirt	Cath Manuel	Get up close and personal with your soil and learn how to improve your soil.
Sat 14 th September	Go Forth and Germinate	Jenece Drake	Creative ways to grow your own plants for free. You'll learn how to sow seeds successfully and how to propagate by cuttings, divisions and other easy methods to grow all your own plants for free !
Sat 28 th September	Creative Container Gardens	Anne Gibson	A hands-on practical morning to inspire and show you how to grow edible gardens in a variety of repurposed planters. Find out where to source materials, how to turn everyday items into food-safe planters, make your own supplies and save money while creatively adding beauty and functionality in your garden.
Sat 12 th October	Waste Not, Want Not	Jenece Drake	Use household items as great garden resources, including establishing composting systems and worm farms
Sat 26 th October	Growing Bananas in your Backyard	Cath Manuel	Learn how to plant, maintain and harvest your own delicious Bananas. We'll look at ways to grow Bananas in small or large space, including Banana Circles
Sat 9 th November	Building a Herb Spiral	Sean Morrow	Join Sean for a hands on practical activity where he'll show you the steps to creating your own herb spiral. Sean will share ideas on many designs which can be incorporated into herb spirals and how to reuse items to create stunning spirals in your garden.
Sat 23 rd November	Happy Healthy Chooks	Kirstie Henning	Join Kirstie Henning from City Chicks Sunshine Coast when she'll share ideas for keeping chooks happy and healthy throughout the year. Kirstie will share her knowledge on raising chickens and creating safe and comfortable housing.
Sat 30 th November	Keeping Your Garden Gorgeous	Jenece Drake	Maintaining productive and attractive gardens through summer, including compost and worm farm maintenance. Jenece will share her years of knowledge and experience and show you ways to maintain a highly productive garden

If you have any questions or require further information please contact Cath Manuel, Centre Director on 0408 060 997 or email cath@centreforgrowingsustainability.org.

Toowoomba Plants Blog by Patricia Gardner

My book "Toowoomba Plants" is currently out of print, but available in the Toowoomba City Library. If you are looking for information on specific plants, you might find it on [my blog](#).

[Brisbane Local Food](#)

Food gardens in public and private spaces. Services, products and communities based on locally produced food and food gardening.

National Parks in Queensland are currently facing many challenges. NPAQ has established a modest petition on [this link](#). I urge you to visit this site, register your support for our National Parks, and encourage your members and friends to do the same by forwarding this email.

BAUER'S ORGANIC FARM



Where quality grows naturally

Bauer's Organic Farm -- Bauer's Organic Farm is a 'paddock to plate' venture. Don't feel like speaking to a multitude of sales assistants? Just want to go home and have your fruit and vegies waiting for you at your door? Bauer's specialise in online ordering and you are not locked into a contract where you have to order each week with nil to little variety. Bauer's Organic Farm is located at Mt Sylvia in the very fertile and protected upper reaches of Blackfellow Creek in the Lockyer Valley. They have been growing organically focused produce for over 30 years, but their ancestors? They have been using the same farm since the 1800s. This family grown produce is not going to cost you a thousand dollars because it is organic. They are reasonably priced and this also includes the cost of freight.

Bauer's have also received several awards, including a Vogue Produce Awards Gold Medal (Australia's foremost food awards). They also have Australian Certified Organic, Freshcare and HACCP Certifications, and the entire 1000 acres of their farm is now a totally Smokefree Zone. Want to see where your vegies actually come from? Bauer's have Farm Open Days, Seniors Coach Group Tours as well as Organic Training Farm Tours. These activities are quite popular and require advance bookings. Unfortunately the coach group tours will not be operating in 2014 due to improvements which are being conducted throughout their farm. The open days are advertised on their website as are the organic training days. Do you know how to stop potatoes going green? Or sprouting their little knobs? Bauer's does. Want to keep carrots longer? Or crisper? Visit www.bauersorganicfarm.com.au and you too will have these pearls of wisdom. If you would like further information on how Bauer's Organic Farm can help take out the stress of fruit and veg shopping, visit them at <https://www.facebook.com/bauersorganicfarm>. Like this page to make sure you stay up to date with their current specials (Ekka specials are a favourite), or any new produce. You can call them on 07 5462 7819 or visit them at 1166 Mt Sylvia Road, Mt Sylvia Q 4343. This is also their postal address.

[Landcare Week 2013 - Be part of it!](#)

Would you like help getting the word out about your upcoming Landcare Week event? Now you can make use of free resources created using the popular LIFE campaign characters to help spread the word and encourage members of your local community to get involved with Landcare and get involved with LIFE! Landcare groups across the country are getting ready to celebrate Landcare Week 2013, which takes place from September 2nd to 8th. This annual celebration of Landcare encourages everyone, wherever they live and whatever they do, to get involved in the Landcare community and help protect and restore our country's valuable natural resources. Landcare Australia has developed a suite of promotional resources using branding from the L.I.F.E – Landcare is for Everyone campaign. These resources are free to download and will help you promote your event and Landcare Week in a number of different ways.

Mining and CSG Law in Queensland

A new handbook, "*Mining and Coal Seam Gas Law in Queensland: a guide for the community*", has been launched by Environment Defenders Office. In support of the handbook, they are offering workshops on the topic to groups of interested landholders and residents in affected areas. The book includes information on understanding the types of mining and gas permits and licences, how to write submissions on mining projects, understanding EIS, running a basic objection hearing in the Land Court. EDO also offers workshops for communities. More information is available at the EDO [website](#).

Adopt-a-Spot ... a Keep Queensland Beautiful initiative

Do you remember the slogan – do the right thing, throw it in the bin? Well according to the latest Keep Australia Beautiful figures, Queensland is the most littered mainland state, coming in at 15 percent higher than the national average. Types of littering from a vehicle or vessel include the throwing of items such as cigarette butts, plastic or glass drink bottles, fast food wrappers, apple cores, orange peels and other fruit, fishing tackle and bait bags. It also includes items falling off the back of a ute or trailer because of an uncovered or unsecured load. Litter can cause harm to humans, wildlife and property. This includes items such as broken glass left on footpaths or playgrounds. It is important that we all take responsibility for our waste and dispose of it thoughtfully in a garbage bin.

Adopt-a-Spot is a great way to clean up litter and to also discourage people from littering through community education. This program provides local communities with the opportunity to contribute to a healthier and cleaner local environment. Adopt-a-Spot encourages a group of community-focussed organisations and individuals to clean up their local adopted environment. The program's purpose is to educate the community that littering is a social offense and an unacceptable action.

Queensland has 174,000km of State and local government maintained roads, so litter removal is a huge exercise that is costly to communities. The mission of Keep Queensland Beautiful is to foster good corporate citizenship by encouraging community groups to take personal responsibility for their local communities by keeping them clean and litter-free. Through Adopt-a-Spot, volunteer groups accept responsibility for removing litter and debris to enhance a section of an agreed local roadway, street, highway, a local beach, waterway or park, or any other public space, for a minimum of four times per year for at least two years. So come on Queensland, let's help keep our country clean, stop the litter and help keep our communities looking beautiful.

For more information and to get involved, please see the Keep Queensland Beautiful website: http://www.keepqueenslandbeautiful.org.au/programs/adopt_a_spot/Info

Environmental protection in the public interest

Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) is a non-profit community legal centre which helps people understand and access their legal rights to protect the environment in the public interest. Our lawyers provide access to justice for Queenslanders who can't afford commercial legal assistance by providing education and advice to help people understand their legal rights and how to exercise them and by developing plain-English fact sheets, handbooks, guidelines, and bulletins to help build the community's legal skills and knowledge.

EDO (Qld)'s most recent publication, *Mining and Coal Seam Gas Law in Queensland*, was developed in response to public demand for clear legal information about mining and coal seam gas. Written in plain English, with an easy-to-follow layout, the handbook is up-to-date with the very latest Queensland law, including recent "greentape" laws. It is an invaluable public resource, especially in communities where landholders and residents are affected by mining proposals and wish to understand more about their rights and options.

Geoff Penton, CEO, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, says in the handbook's forward, "Many people cannot afford private legal advice. This guide fills a much needed gap by providing reliable legal material on Queensland mining projects and how they affect existing communities, industries and the natural environment."

The guide is available for purchase through EDO (Qld) (www.edo.org.au/edoqld/news/mining-and-csg-guide-now-available). EDO (Qld) will also be offering workshops on mining and coal seam gas law in Queensland. EDO (Qld) relies on donor support to provide these community legal services. For news updates, more information on EDO (Qld) services such fact sheets, advice lines, workshops and information on how to donate or volunteer, visit www.edo.org.au/edoqld

HOPE's Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

Please join us for morning tea and chat from 10am onwards. Phone the office on 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming.

National News

[PaintCare Australia](#)

The Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation Inc. will run a trial of up to six months in Victoria to collect, treat and dispose of waste paint from trade sources. A first in Australia, the trade trial aims to collect valuable data to aid the development of a national scheme to collect and safely dispose of waste paint from both trade and domestic sources.

A total of six Council transfer stations have agreed to support the trial by providing facilities for trade painters to dispose of waste paint. The six locations are:

- Geelong Recycling and Resource Recovery Station
- The Eaglehawk Eco Centre
- Melton Recycling Facility
- Monash Waste Transfer and Recycling Station
- Mornington Waste Disposal Centre
- Shepparton Transfer Station

A limit of 100 Litres per visit. Individual containers are also limited to 20 Litres each. This initiative is a collaboration between Sustainability Victoria and the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation with support from the Master Painters Association of Victoria.

[The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative \(ABRI\)](#)

The Australian Battery Recycling Initiative (ABRI) is a not-for-profit association established in 2008 to promote responsible environmental management of batteries at end of life. Batteries contain valuable metals that should be recovered; they are also a potential hazard in landfills and alternative waste facilities. ABRI's vision is simple – effective stewardship of all 'end of life' batteries. The current membership includes battery manufacturers, consumer electronics suppliers, recyclers, government agencies and environmental organisations. We are seeking to expand our membership to include additional companies involved in the manufacture, use and recovery of batteries. Further information is available at the [website](#).

[CERES Community Kitchen](#)

Introducing you to the CERES Community Kitchen – a fun, environmentally friendly group cooking space just 4km from the heart of Melbourne's CBD. Designed to celebrate food and community, our commercial kitchen provides a welcoming setting for people to come together to share, learn about and celebrate food. Our unique '[Farm & Food Day](#)' caters for large groups and is the ideal corporate team building experience. Move out of the office and into an urban farm for the day to learn about and harvest your own food grown on location. Break-off groups cook up sweet and savory treats in the kitchen, using your source ingredients from the farm. End the day with a celebratory affair enjoying High Tea of all the treats the group have made in the kitchen. The day includes break-off sessions in smaller groups to tour the [CERES grounds](#). Benefit from time together in a new environment to strengthen and enhance team bonds. An inspiring and hugely beneficial living and team building experience. Learn more about the community kitchen at www.ceres.org.au.

[100% of new Australian power plants are wind and solar](#) by Giles Parkinson

All new electricity generation proposals received in the last 12 months have been either for large-scale wind farms or solar facilities. But rooftop solar continues to dominate and the energy market operator says there is no room for any new fossil fuel capacity for at least a decade.

[Mildura solar power station finally complete](#)

Australia's largest concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) solar power station in Mildura, Victoria, has begun operation seven years after it was first announced. The 40 CPV dish systems in the demonstration facility are now feeding renewable energy into the national electricity grid.

[Solar, wind could replace all fossil fuels in Australia by 2040](#) , by Giles Parkinson

An analysis by ANU suggests Australia could reach 100% renewables by 2040 if wind continues to be deployed at 2013 rates and solar deployment increases 10% a year from 2020. The study says wind and solar are cheaper are the cheapest option to replace the fossil fuel capacity that must be retired over the coming decades.

What is This Thing Called 'WWOOF'?

Survival in the 21st Century, a cult book in the '60's & '70's, is now becoming a reality for many people wanting to learn about alternative lifestyles, self-sufficiency and being close to nature. You can come to know these things through a program called **Willing Workers on Organic Farms**, commonly known around the world as WWOOF.

WWOOF Australia was the brainchild of Lionel Pollard, who discovered the concept when visiting his home country of Britain in the late '70's. At that time in the UK, people could escape the city and volunteer their labour on Host properties in a program called Working Weekends on Organic Farms. Lionel perfected that ideal in Australia, blending his interest and enthusiasm for organic farming and gardening with volunteering on Host properties to promote the organic and sustainable farming movement that was becoming prevalent during the '80's.

WWOOF Australia officially started in 1981 with a handful of organic Hosts. Now the organisation has 2500 Hosts and has branched out into what can be adequately described as 'a smorgasbord of alternative Australian lifestyles', the majority of which are in rural country Australia. The program now has not just certified organic & biodynamic farms, but also a multitude of organically run hobby farms, wildlife sanctuaries, wilderness retreats, intentional communities, urban permaculture gardens and small blocks of land requiring help from willing volunteers. The WWOOF program is essentially about volunteering labour in exchange for all food and accommodation and cultural exchange while promoting sustainable agriculture.

The great thing about the WWOOF program is learning one gets about organic growing, permaculture, biodynamic practices as well as alternative technologies in energy and building. Being a Willing Worker, a WWOOFer, is just that. WWOOFers should be willing and able to work with the host family and to participate in an enthusiastic way. They will be asked to do a wide variety of chores from general farm chores to vegetable and herb gardening, including seed propagation, sowing, planting, weeding, harvesting, composting, watering, pruning, mowing, animal care, treeplanting, rainforest regeneration, building such as mudbrick, strawbale and cob building, solar systems, cattle mustering, the list is endless. WWOOFers also do their share of the household chores, helping to prepare meals and washing up.

Then there is the fun 'stuff' like designing a mosaic pathway, making a herb mandala garden, perhaps horseriding, bushwalking, snorkelling, swimming, or visiting the local attractions and meeting the local town folk, attending festivals and musical events.

The WWOOF program allows WWOOFers to discover the unique variety of what makes up rural Australia. WWOOF Hosts and their families benefit from the assistance they have from their WWOOFers as well as the friendships and cultural exchange with WWOOFers from all over the world. WWOOF Hosts describe the joy of being able to travel the world in the comfort of their own farm!

See www.wwoof.com.au for information about the WWOOF program and how to join as a Host or volunteer. Facebook: WWOOFingAustralia , E-mail: wwoof@wwoof.com.au , Telephone: 03-5155-0318

Resources

Book Reviews



Gardens for All Seasons is a gardening lifestyle book by bestselling author Mary Horsfall, celebrating the role of gardens in our lives and advising on the timing of jobs in the gardening year throughout Australia. Monthly chapters include topics such as planning, bushfire preparation, watering, pot plant care, mulching, weeding, fertilising, pruning, propagating, pest control, what to plant for different climate zones and what garden venues and events to visit.

Mary details her own gardening year, including jobs done, fruits and vegetables harvested, food cooked based on the harvest, what was in flower and wildlife observations – all on a month by month basis. Each chapter includes a special topic of the month, such as fun for kids in the garden, biodiversity, manipulating microclimate, and fragrance and first aid.

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. If you do not wish to receive this e:news bulletin, please email 'unsubscribe e:news' to office@hopeaustralia.org.au