



**Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.**  
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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE Enews Bulletin 2015 #10 --- 16 October 2015

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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. If you would like to discuss news items displayed or have letters for the editor please contact the office or <[newsletter editor - hotlink](mailto:newsletter_editor@hopeaustralia.org.au)>

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### Editorial

*Hello there,*

*As usual, our newsletter contains a good mix of information on Environmental Days of Observance; HOPE events and meetings; and interesting articles from some of our colleagues in the environment sector.*

*In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to the articles on our partnerships, sponsorship appeal and upcoming Annual General Meeting (14 Nov).*

*Regards,*

*Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*

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### Calendar of events

Search the [national environmental events calendar](#) and/or [national community calendar](#) for any events that might interest you.

**International Year of Light**

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Year\\_of\\_Light](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Year_of_Light)

**International Year of Soils**

- <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

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#### OCTOBER

- 1-3 Smart Future Cities Conference, Newcastle, NSW - <http://www.smartfuturecities.com.au/>
- 3 **HOPE Community Forum – State of the Park with Mr Paul Donatiu, NPAQ**
- 1-10 [National Organic Week](#)
- 4 [World Animal Day](#)
- 4-10 [World Space Week](#)
- 5 [World Habitat Day](#)
- 10-11 Buzzed about Bees – Balanced Beekeeping, 2 day workshop, Laidley, QLD  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1507514609538963/>
- 13 [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)
- 15 [National Ride 2 Work Day](#)
- 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- 18-24 [National Water Week](#)
- 19-25 [Bird Week](#)
- 19-25 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
- 24 [United Nations Day](#)
- 27 [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#)

## NOVEMBER

- 6 [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)
- 7 **HOPE Community Forum – Murray-Darling Basin Authority with Frank Walker, MDBA**
- 10-13 NSW Coastal Conference - <http://www.coastalconference.com/> - Forster, NSW
- 13 [National Walk to Work Day](#)
- 14 **HOPE AGM**
- 9-15 [National Recycling Week](#)
- 18 [International GIS Day](#)
- 21 [World Fisheries Day](#)

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## Date Claimers

### 7 Nov 2015 HOPE's free Community Forum: Murray-Darling River system in focus

The topic of HOPE's final FREE community forum for 2015 is the "*Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and the Basin Plan*". The forum will be held on Saturday, 7 November at the Dr Price Room, 6 Little Street, Toowoomba starting at 4pm.

Toowoomba residents will have the opportunity to hear first-hand how the Murray-Darling Basin Plan impacts the local region.



MDBA Director Northern Basin Mr Frank Walker will explain the role of the Authority in developing the plan that outlines a coordinated approach to water use across the Basin in a bid to achieve a fair, efficient and sustainable use of the resource. He will focus on how the plan is being implemented in the northern Basin upstream of Menindee Lakes on the Darling River: - of particular interest is that Toowoomba is located in the upper reaches of the northern Basin.

The Murray Darling Basin is Australia's most iconic river system stretching over four States and the ACT. It contains 70% of Australia's irrigated land area.

The Basin is ecologically diverse, supporting nationally and internationally significant plants, animals and ecosystems. The plan addresses the imbalance that has occurred since European settlement which focused on securing water for domestic and agricultural needs without understanding the water needs of the natural environment.

For further information and/or to reserve your seat at the community forum on Saturday 7 November, please contact the HOPE office on ph: 07 4639 2135 or email: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

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### 14 Nov 2015 HOPE AGM, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, QLD

Members and supporters are invited to our Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held on Saturday, 14 November at the HOPE office (and home of Frank & Mary Ondrus), 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, Qld, commencing at 10am sharp!

Guest speaker Mr Steve Cupitt from Crossroads Consultancy will outline our joint landcare proposal "*to encourage landholders to improve the native vegetation structure and habitat value of their blocks for small mammals and small birds through improved management.*"

To register your interest in attending the AGM, please RSVP by Thu 12 Nov by phoning 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

*(A formal AGM meeting notice and nominations forms, etc. will be circulated soon.)*

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Collective Future Campaign – Oaktree ([www.oaktree.org](http://www.oaktree.org))

Hi, my name is Katty Tsai, and I'm writing to you on behalf of Oaktree, Australia's largest youth-run aid, development and advocacy organisation. We believe we can end extreme poverty in our generation through means of education. We do this through campaigning for policy change on aid, raising awareness and directly funding overseas projects.

I'm contacting you in hopes of spreading the word of our campaign which targets climate change. We recognise the work that all of you put into preserving the environment. At Oaktree, we see climate change and poverty alleviation as two deeply interconnected issues - with the worst effects of climate change having a disproportionate impact on the livelihood of the world's most impoverished, vulnerable people.

**“With the Sustainable Development Goals to be finalised in September and the Paris Climate Summit to be held in December, it is a critical moment of 2015 for young Australians to create change by being at the forefront of tackling some of the world's biggest challenges: extreme poverty and climate change.**

**Left unchecked, climate change will aggravate the most lethal injustices of extreme poverty. The people most affected are those that already face the greatest development challenges due to economic, social and political marginalisation. To overcome the new challenges climate change poses to ending extreme poverty, we're calling on the Government to make a commitment of \$400 million to international climate finance - funds that will allow for low-income countries to adapt to climate change and build the low-carbon economies of the future. This is a critical moment for the movement to end poverty. The decisions made by our Government must put the health, safety and prosperity of both people and planet at their centre.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Katty Tsai, Team Leader, QLD | [+61 421 225 996](tel:+61421225996)

**Oaktree** | Young people leading a movement to end poverty.

[Join the movement](#) | [Live Below the Line](#) | [Donate today](#)

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## Food for thought

### Wolves in Yellowstone National Park

Remember when the wolves were introduced back into Yellowstone National Park about 20 years ago? There was a lot of debate about whether or not it was a good thing.

I don't know your thoughts on this, but have a look at this video clip.

How often do we wonder, what difference does one animal make in the greater scheme of things?

Sit back and enjoy this amazing video on how just one animal has changed the environment.

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ysa5OBhXz-Q?feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ysa5OBhXz-Q?feature=player_embedded)

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## Office News Report --- October 2015

Hello folks,

Over the years, I have often said “the more we do, the more we are asked to do.” By that I mean, every time we read an e: newsletter or email from an environment colleague, there is another opportunity or possibility for HOPE to promote, support and/or endorse a new initiative - be that a project, campaign and/or an event. Of course, we would love to be involved in everything that comes our way, but most times we simply don't have sufficient in-house expertise and/or human resources (i.e. volunteer members and supporters) to undertake the extra work.

In fact, we have a backlog of suggestions for newsletter and media articles, development of information sheets; and projects including hosting more information sessions on sustainable living, developing a national Helpful Hints Recycling Guide and speaking directly to community groups about the HOPE Charter.

So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, we would love for you to join our band of volunteers and help us to maintain our activities at the local/regional, state and national level.

### **Reports & date claimers:**

3 Oct - 19 people were in attendance at our Community Forum on “State of the Park” presented by Mr Paul Donatiu, Principal Advocate with National Parks Association Queensland (NPAQ)

7 Nov - Guest speaker at our November community forum is Mr Frank Walker, MDBA Director Northern Basin who will provide an overview on the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Basin Plan.

14 Nov - HOPE's AGM, 10am start at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba Qld. Guest speaker if Mr Steve Cupitt, Crossroads Consultancy, who will speak about our joint landcare proposal

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

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## **HOPE's many partnerships**

As a national NGO with a broad environmental agenda, Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. believes in the value of partnering with other agencies to share expertise and resources, and in supporting one another's projects, campaigns and events.

HOPE is a member group, signatory or supporter of 13 State, national and international organizations concerned with a wide range of environmental issues. These include the promotion of sustainable development, plant and animal conservation, the reduction of pollution and waste, as well as fighting against poverty, toxic chemical use and much more.

HOPE participates in numerous outreach activities involving the local community and beyond, such as setting up information displays at expos and festivals in Toowoomba and at University of Southern Queensland (USQ). HOPE also develops educational materials, ranging from information sheets, to booklets and guides.

In addition to supporting its partnerships and alliances, HOPE both endorses, and actively participates in, local and national campaigns including Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day and Biodiversity Month.

We invite HOPE members, supporters and the wider community to support these alliances and events where possible. With more involvement, together, we can work towards keeping the earth a beautiful place!

Further information about HOPE's partnerships, alliances and outreach activities can be found on the HOPE website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances/> .

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## National “Fund-raising Appeal”

With our bank balance getting ever so low, the management committee felt it prudent to not only initiate a national sponsorship campaign, but to also ask our members and supporters to make a financial donation to help defray our operating expenses; and to enable us to more effectively promote new projects, events and activities.

Established in 1988, HOPE encourages citizens to embrace sustainable living practices at home, in the workplace, at school and on recreation. HOPE also looks at broader environmental issues that impact adversely on communities locally, state-wide and nationally.

HOPE, in partnership or association with key organisations, seeks to deliver on its charter of environmental stewardship through:

- awareness raising campaigns via our website, newsletter and Facebook; as well as through the media
- developing educational resources such as information sheets and Helpful Hints guides
- hosting community forums, workshops and other events

Donations can be made online at [www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation) or sent to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

*Remember, HOPE is a not-for-profit community based environment organisation managed entirely by volunteers and every dollar of funds raised goes to the management of HOPE and delivery of projects, events and activities.*

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## Food for Thought

### Community Abundance

We are discovering that it takes a village to do more than raise a child. It is the key to a satisfying life. It turns out we need our neighbours and a community to be healthy, produce jobs, protect the land, and care for the elderly and those on the margin.

Our consumer society constantly tells us that we are insufficient and that we must purchase what we need from specialists and systems outside the community. We outsource our health care, child care, recreation, safety, and satisfaction. We are trained to become consumers and clients, not citizens and neighbours. We need to take a thoughtful look at how this situation came about, what maintains it, and the crippling effect it has had on our families, our communities, and our environment.

Right in our neighbourhood we have the capacity to address our human needs in ways that systems - which see us only as interchangeable units, as problems to be solved - never can. We all have gifts to offer, even the most seemingly marginal among us.

We need to look how to nurture voluntary, self-organizing structures that will reveal these gifts and allow them to be shared to the greatest mutual benefit.

Each neighbourhood has people with the gifts and talents needed to provide for our prosperity and peace of mind.

*(Article submitted by Michael Wardle, Savor Soil Permaculture - <http://www.savoursoilpermaculture.com.au/> )*

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### **Annual Pledge/Donation - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>**

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

## Feature Articles

### Looking at Australia's climate movement communications: Potential and obstacles

By Dr Kitty van Vuuren, School of Communication & Arts, The University of Queensland, October, 2015

Between 30 November and 11 December this year, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change will be held in Paris (COP 21), with the aim “to reach, for the first time, a universal, legally binding agreement that will enable us to combat climate change effectively and boost the transition towards resilient, low-carbon societies and economies” (<http://www.cop21.gouv.fr>).

Australia has a poor record when it comes to doing its bit to deal with climate change—Australians are amongst the highest per capita emitters on the planet—but now that we have a new PM, with Malcolm Turnbull ousting climate denier Tony Abbott, there is some hope that Australia will join the global effort to mitigate and adapt to the challenges it faces as a result of global warming.

Although these Conference of Parties (COP) meetings are foremost a forum for the leadership of nations, ever since the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the global climate movement has been present at these gatherings. Around 2,400 representatives from non-government organisations were present at the 1992 meeting to send a message to the 172 governments that attended the meeting. Around the globe a further 17,000 people joined in parallel forums. Since then, the global climate movement has continued to grow. At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, about 50,000 people attended Klimaforum09, the alternative People's Climate Summit, while back in Australia about 50,000 people marched around the nation calling for world leaders to create a strong and binding agreement.

A civil society presence at high-profile meetings of international leaders can ensure that the climate movement has a voice. As we saw at the G20 meeting in Brisbane last November, such events attract journalists and observers from around the world and offer a unique opportunity to raise the issues of movement activists, issues that are increasingly of concern to most ordinary people.

There is no doubt that coordination of climate change actions at international events and parallel actions in many countries around the world has benefitted from online media. They have strengthened the capacity of civil society and activists to organise their actions and programs, as well as made it far easier to cheaply and quickly reach out to the broader community. In his 2013 book “The Future”, Al Gore devotes a chapter to the role of communication in the social transformation of society. He notes the profound changes to the human species generated by the development of speech, writing and the alphabet and then gives examples of the tremendous power of the Internet and social media in bringing about positive social change. But Gore warns that the promise of democratic invigoration offered by the Internet has not been wholly fulfilled. Although he devotes much of his discussion to how these same technologies can be used to control societies, since they make it far easier to undertake surveillance, he also points out that while Internet-based campaigns can quickly spark widespread campaigns and actions, they can also quickly fizzle out. He suggests that the success or otherwise of the use of online media is related to the cultures within which they operate: “political consciousness” is “embodied in formal structures that... govern according to the principles articulated by the reformers” (p. 62).

My research of grass-roots community groups and campaigns indicates that Gore's suggestion, that an organisation's communication is related to its organisational culture, also operates at the national and local level, and can be applied to less formal as well as formal organisations. My past research of community radio stations demonstrated such a link. Furthermore, the smaller, locally-based groups and organisations all form part of the broader climate change movement, alongside the more high profile campaigns such as WWFs Earth Hour, or GetUp!

Our current knowledge of the Australian climate movement is meager. In 2012, Verity Burgmann and Hans Baer published *Climate Politics and the Climate Movement in Australia* (Melbourne University Press), and there have been some journal articles published about organisations such as GetUp! Much of this work focuses on their political impact. My current research, conducted together with Dr Karey Harrison at the University of Southern Queensland, titled ‘Shifting Climate Change Perspectives in Australia’, is more interested in the suggestion put forward by Gore above, and aims to test the belief that organisational communications approaches are related to their cultures. We are particularly interested in how and to whom organisations talk about climate change, as well as what is said, and with whom they are connected. I am currently conducting interviews with representatives of grass roots organisations that are actively campaigning on climate change to answer some of these questions; we will also be looking at websites and other publications. HOPE is one such group, and an example of a more traditional non-government

organization: it is incorporated and has a relatively formal structure, with a management committee elected at an annual general meeting. By contrast, other groups might be more loosely structured and largely conduct 'meetings' online. Although it is tempting to suggest that some structures work better than others, from a research point of view, different kinds of organisations will appeal to different kinds of people, and each may 'work' successfully according to their own cultural logic.

Given the scale of the challenges and risks presented by climate change many different approaches in grass-roots organisation and activism offer many different opportunities for innovative and effective ways to talk about and spread the message, as well as change behaviour. This research will reveal successes as well as point to opportunities to strengthen the movement. The results from this project will contribute towards publishing a book, and add to a small but growing history of climate activism in Australia.

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## Related news stories

### **World Bank: *State and trends of carbon pricing 2015***

This report describes key developments and the prospects of existing and emerging carbon initiatives worldwide. <http://apo.org.au/research/state-and-trends-carbon-pricing-2015>  
(Download full report at <http://apo.org.au/files/Resource/9781464807251.pdf> )

### **Alex Lo: Too big to fail - China pledges to set up landmark emissions trading scheme**

Chinese President Xi Jinping has made a landmark commitment on climate change, pledging to launch what will become the world's largest and most important emissions trading scheme when it begins in 2017. <http://theconversation.com/too-big-to-fail-china-pledges-to-set-up-landmark-emissions-trading-scheme-48214>

### **Brazil locks in 43% emissions reduction - 'one of world's largest'**

Brazil pledges to slash greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030, putting the targets of most developed countries – including Australia – to shame. <http://reneweconomy.com.au/2015/brazil-locks-in-43-emissions-reduction-target-one-of-worlds-largest-71735>

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## **WANTED – USED POSTAGE STAMPS**

HOPE collects used postage stamps and/or un-wanted stamp albums for community groups' fund-raising purposes.

Please consider collecting used postage stamps from home and/or work, and forwarding a pack of used stamps to the HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) office, PO Box 6118 - Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba, QLD 4350; or drop them off at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

## **WANTED – PHOTOCOPY PAPER**

HOPE has used up its current stock of photocopied paper and we are asking our members and supporters to donate a ream or two of A4 photocopied paper. Donations of paper can be left on the table in the carport at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

Alternately, cash or cheque donations can be made online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/> or posted to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 -Clifford Gardens Toowoomba QLD 4350.

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## Toowoomba News

### Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba Inc.

[info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au) | [www.fep.org.au](http://www.fep.org.au)



**Parkcare groups** are volunteers carrying out bush rehabilitation in our local bushland parks.

Would you like to get involved?

**Charmaine Court, Kleinton (near Highfields)** -- (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month from 9am – 12noon)  
Contact Michael McGoldrick, ph 4635 7371 or mob 0417 802 817

**Nielsen Park - Colman Drive off Mackenzie St** -- (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month from 9am – 12noon)  
(Plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 2pm)  
Contact Rob Brodribb, mob 0407 124 863, [rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au)

**Jubilee Park -Coventry Court (Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty)** --(1st Sunday of the month 8 - 9am)  
Contact Geoff Sharp, mob 0427 038 055

**Redwood Park - Warrego Highway below the saddle** -- (Each Mon & Thu 8:30am; plus 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month)  
Access to the park is through the bottom car park on the down section of the Toowoomba range crossing, on the left just after the first 100km speed sign.  
Contact Hugh Krenske, mob 0418 748 282 or ph 07 4635 1758

**Duggan Park - Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville** -- (Each Thursday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 8:30am)  
Contact Max Henderson, mob 0427 866 091

**Hartmann Bushland Reserve - Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St** -- (Wednesday from 8am each week; plus 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 9am)  
Contact Greg Lukes, mob 0428 288 077, [glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com)

**Panorama Crescent Park** -- (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month from 3pm)  
Kathy Gouldson, [kathygouldson@bigpond.com](mailto:kathygouldson@bigpond.com)

**Echo Valley South Park - Ramsay Street** -- (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday each month from 9am)  
This small group is active 2 or 3 Saturdays each month from 9am – 12 noon.  
Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077), [glukes@bigpond.com](mailto:glukes@bigpond.com)

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## Toowoomba Farmers' Market

*"Reconnecting consumers with their local producers, growers, educators and artisans."*



WHEN: The last Saturday of the month (December is on the 19th however)!

TIME: 7am - 12noon

VENUE: Farmers Market Permanent Venue - The Grounds, Toowoomba Showgrounds, Glenvale Rd, Toowoomba

**Contact:**

Fiona May – From Paddock to Potager

Mob: 0439 844 849 | Email:

[fiona@frompaddocktopotager.com.au](mailto:fiona@frompaddocktopotager.com.au)

Website: [www.frompaddocktopotager.com.au](http://www.frompaddocktopotager.com.au) |

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FromPaddockToPotager](http://www.facebook.com/FromPaddockToPotager)

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## National News

### Community Recycling Enterprises turn waste into wages

Community Recycling Enterprises (CRE's) are enterprises that exist to reduce waste to landfill while creating jobs and volunteer positions through the sale of reusable and recyclable goods. They are led by a social, cultural or environmental mission, derive a substantial portion of their income from trade, and reinvest the majority of their profit in the fulfillment of their mission. From small Tip Shops in regional communities to large, multi-regional enterprises, CRE's are a significant contributor to waste reduction in Australia.

In 2011, the Queensland University of Technology undertook the first ever study into the location, size and impact of the Community Recycling sector. The study estimates that Community Recycling Enterprises divert 152,000 tonnes of waste each year, employ 1500 people and contribute over \$56 million to the regional economy. CRE's provide local solutions for local waste management issues, and their scalability is one of their greatest strengths. "Every town with a population of over 10,000 people could sustain a recycling enterprise" says Matthew Allen, Secretary of the Community Recycling Network of Australia.

The Community Recycling Network of Australia (CRN Australia) is working to support and grow the CRE sector in Australia, by providing peer support, advocacy, resources and information for members. As the peak membership body for community re-use and recycling enterprises in Australia, CRNA represents community re-use and recycling enterprises across Australia. CRNA exists as an active peer support network and advocacy body for the sector. Since its formation in 2011, CRN Australia has produced a number of resources for the sector including a short film, a comprehensive e-book guide on operating a CRE, and has facilitated several information exchange and mentoring opportunities between CRE's around the country. CRN Australia also runs an annual public Community Recycling Forum, open to anybody who is interested in the sector - this year's is in Hobart, Tasmania on the 12th and 13th of November.

"What is different about community recycling enterprises is that they are sustainable through sales. They employ the very people who are in need of support and the whole community benefits with reduced waste costs, less welfare payments and new employees regain their independence and purpose in life" says Miles Lochhead, Convener of CRN Australia.

"It is not rocket science to see waste as a resource. This is echoed by a growing number of Councils who are encouraging community organisations to partner them in dealing with local waste problems."

CRN Australia is interested in working collaboratively with community organisations, local governments, businesses and individuals who share our vision of reducing waste and creating jobs. If you would like any more info about the organisation, please get in touch!

*Matthew Allen, Secretary, CRN Australia*

[secretary@communityrecycling.com.au](mailto:secretary@communityrecycling.com.au) | [www.communityrecycling.com.au](http://www.communityrecycling.com.au)

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### Solar Citizens – Standing up for Solar

<http://www.solarcitizens.org.au/> and [www.standupforsolar.org.au](http://www.standupforsolar.org.au)



The USA is on track to celebrate reaching one million solar rooftops by February 2016.

But did you know that there are already more than a million Australian homes now sporting solar panels?

In 2008, only about 14,000 homes had solar panels. Today, it's an impressive 1.4 million.

These Australian solar households have contributed more than 4.4 million kilowatts of renewable energy into the national energy mix.

In less than a decade, we have seen a revolution that has taken rooftop solar from a money-saving technology for the fringes to a smart investment for the mainstream.

There are about 3,000 solar PV systems being installed on rooftops across the country every single week. It's created a powerful proof and rooftop advertisement for the benefits of solar, and a powerful block of new pro-renewable voters.

There are various good reasons for why this has happened.

The price of panels and other component parts dropped substantially — solar PV module costs have fallen by 75 per cent since the end of 2009, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Federal policies such as the Renewable Energy Target helped reduce the price of installation and up-front investment, and state-based feed-in-tariffs gave people a payment for the electricity they fed back into the grid.

Rooftop by rooftop, solar panels have become the new normal for our homes and the price of technology and installation has fallen as numbers have grown. But of course it hasn't been all trouble-free.

A country rich in natural sun resources like our own can have an incredibly bright future for solar and renewable energy.

But we need leadership from both State and Federal governments to turn the community's love of renewables and solar into a new era of solar investment and support.

Over coming weeks, Solar Citizens are meeting with their local members and asking for a firm commitment to:

- A national goal of at least 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030;
- A fair go for solar owners, including a fair feed-in tariff, no discriminatory fees and a specialist solar ombudsman; and
- A national program to help low-income households and renters with soaring power bills to go solar.

Renewable energy can lower power bills for Australian families while creating thousands of jobs and driving innovation.

We just need the political support for a better future for solar and renewable energy and practical plans to bring down power bills for consumers. To find out more go to [www.standupforsolar.org.au](http://www.standupforsolar.org.au)

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## Surfrider Foundation Australia - <http://www.surfrider.org.au/>

*"Protecting oceans, waves and beaches"*



Surfrider Foundation Australia is a registered not for profit sea-roots organisation dedicated to the protection of Australia's waves and beaches through Conservation, Activism, Research and Education C.A.R.E.

A little over 30 years ago, three passionate surfers in Malibu, California, found out that their favourite wave was about to be destroyed. Those three people worked with their local community and Government until they were satisfied that their iconic wave would be preserved. This was the

genesis of Surfrider Foundation USA, which sparked a global movement of surfers and ocean enthusiasts to stand up for their coasts and local marine environments.

Today, the Surfrider Foundation movement has grown to 18 countries around the world.

Surfrider Foundation Australia (SFA) was founded in 1991 largely in response to poor water quality issues along Australia's east coast. Local surfers, being at the forefront of water quality, began recruiting volunteers for a series of demonstrations and actions to persuade decision makers to take action on this ongoing issue. The group has been working hard to protect Australia's coastlines ever since.

Since its humble beginnings and as we approach our 25th year of operation, SFA has grown to over 13 volunteer branches and many more volunteer beach representatives tackling local and national coastal environmental issues at a sea-roots level around Australia.

With times of uncertainty, it hasn't been easy. There's still a lot of work to be done. Our work is critical. And, our long-term success and growth is a tribute to our founders' vision: that taking on an environmental battle may not be easy, but with constant pressure, endlessly applied, it can, and will, be won. The key to this is what makes our organization unique.

**National Office Address:** 40-42 Balgowlah Road, Balgowlah, 2093, NSW

**Postal Address:** PO BOX 968, Mona Vale, NSW, 1660

**Mobile:** 0424 352 792 | **Email:** [info@surfrider.org.au](mailto:info@surfrider.org.au)

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## Resources -- Helpful Hints

**Recipes on Green Cleaning** from The Self Sufficiency Shoppe [www.theshoppe.com.au](http://www.theshoppe.com.au)

### **Eucalyptus Disinfectant:**

Half fill a recycled plastic bottle (an old vinegar bottle is ideal) with cheap (white) vinegar. Fill the remainder of the bottle with water. Add a four drops eucalyptus oil and 2 drops green food colouring. Apply lid and shake. For Lavender disinfectant use lavender oil and pink/purple colouring.

*(From e-Booklet No. 33 Versatile Vinegar)*

### **Carpet Deodoriser in a Jar:**

Three-quarter fill a clean medium-sized jar with bicarbonate soda. Add 6 drops eucalyptus or lavender oil. Apply lid. Shake well to blend. Punch holes into the lid of the jar to form a sprinkle-top container. To Use: Sprinkle onto the carpet area, focusing specifically on areas that require extra deodorising. Leave 30 minutes - then vacuum or brush off.

*(From e-Booklet No. 9 Amazing Bicarb)*

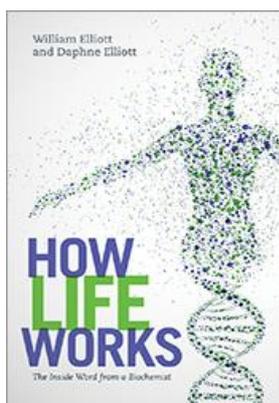
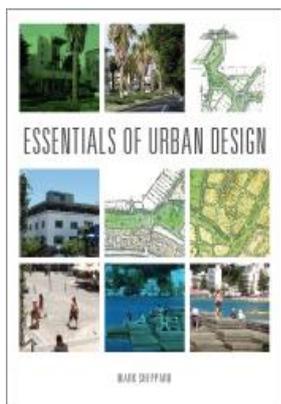
### **Economical Soap Jelly:**

Grate one bar of soap. Put one half in one 9 litre bucket. Put the other half of grated soap in another bucket. Add ½ cup washing soda and 2 litres of boiling water to each bucket. Stir both buckets until mixture has dissolved. Top each bucket up to full with water. Leave to cool. Use approx. 1 cup of mix to full wash tub (for clothes) OR use to wash dishes (in place of detergent) OR as a liquid hand wash or hair shampoo.

*(From e-Booklet No. 50 Recycling Soap)*

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## Resources -- New titles from CSIRO Publishing



<Click onto book cover to read more>

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## Resources – Interesting Website

**The Kitchen Garden Foundation has a new website!** - <https://www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/>

The Kitchen Garden Foundation team has been very busy over the past few months developing our brand new website and we are as proud as punch with the finished result! For the first time we are able to share some of the amazing things our Kitchen Garden Program Schools and Kitchen Garden Classroom members have posted on our vibrant online community - the Shared Table. We'll also be sharing recipes, garden activities and curriculum-linked resources, just check out our [new homepage](#) and scroll down to see all the action. There's also lots of information on our new [Kitchen Garden Classroom membership](#), pleasurable food education, professional learning and much more...

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