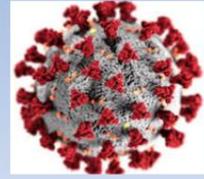# A New Podcast Series

After the virus: talking about an innovative recovery from COVID-19 in South-East Queensland

"Think Globally - Act Locally"
"Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle"

HOPE AUSTRALIA
Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc.

Many Australians have been astonished at the contrast between the federal government's responses to the pandemic and to the climate threat . . . Overall, Australia has mounted one of the most effective responses to the virus of any country. Yet on climate change it remains unalarmed and unmotivated.

Tim Flannery, The Guardian, 16th September 2020.

[Householders' Options to Protect the Environment](#) (HOPE Australia) welcomes you to a new podcast series: *[After the virus](#)* – **talking about an innovative recovery from COVID-19 in South-East Queensland.**

The series is produced by HOPE in the form of interviews of between 30 to 45-minute duration. Invited guests talk about a range of ways in which our region could become more sustainable as we move to control and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Each podcast episode](#) contains an overarching vision, reflective of the particular interests of our guests; a vision for what a green 'built forward better' stimulus and recovery from COVID-19 in this part of Queensland might look like. Guests also describe some of the immediate steps which could be taken to start to realise that vision.

HOPE's key rationale in creating this project lies in its support for an innovative recovery from COVID-19 which can, simultaneously, tackle major regional, longer-term problems, such as uncontrolled climate change, biodiversity loss, and water security; and at the same time that we move to end the pandemic and ultimately move beyond it. Such a vision would align this region with the scale of ambition and innovation emerging from within a growing global, and national movement; one which advocates a rapid transformation toward a low carbon, ecologically sustainable, socially fair, and economically prosperous move away from current 'business as usual' models of development.

In Australia, momentum is building rapidly behind this crucial, low carbon transition goal. In just several months across 2020 we saw four, well-researched reports outlining a path toward a low carbon future in this country, produced by the organisations Climate Works, [Beyond Zero Emissions](#) the [Climate Council](#) and most recently, [The Next Economy](#). Through broadcast of the *After the Virus* podcast series, HOPE aims to bring some of the ideas, forward thinking and energy behind this capacity building momentum into the South East Queensland region.

Beth Jackson: art curator and critical writer of contemporary art.
Beth is a long-established curator, creative writer and poet, and contemporary art specialist based in Brisbane. Feminism and the environment are abiding themes in all her work. She is also a curator of public art and Director of Artfully, a public art and place-based consultancy which she established in 2012.
In her episode: *Using Art to Think and Feel about a post-COVID future,* Beth talks about her work on a recent art project which tells varied stories of human experience during COVID-19 restrictions in the Brisbane area. We discuss what the future may hold for art practice in a post-COVID-19 future and how art may be able to help us make sense of where the pandemic has taken us – and where we want to go as a society, after the virus.

Mark Tranter: advocate for community renewable energy (CORE).
Since its inception in 2015, Mark has been the convenor of the Toowoomba branch of Renew an organisation dedicated to helping people live sustainably in their homes and communities. Mark has lectured, written about, taught and practised in environmental and planning law since the 1990's and is inspired by the concept of local communities taking control of their energy use through local activism. **In his episode:** *The potential for community owned alternative energy generation,* Mark describes a wide range of CORE technologies and the opportunities for local citizens to contribute to lower power bills and make an income off of community investment in renewable power.

Dr. Michelle Maloney: convenor of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA).
Michelle is Co-Founder and National Convenor of (AELA), Adjunct Senior Fellow, Law Futures Centre, Griffith University; and Director of the New Economy Network Australia (NENA) and Future Dreaming Australia. She advocates for systems change, in order to shift industrialised societies from a human-centred, to an Earth centred governance system.
In her episode: *Advocating system level reform to progress a sustainable society,* Michelle describes AELA's diverse and ambitious work to achieve system change and reform in Australian law, economics, education, ethics and the arts.

Paul Donatiu: Team Leader at Healthy Land and Water, Brisbane.
Paul's work for Healthy Land and Water involves looking after and conserving natural world systems, landscapes and species in South East Queensland - most recently to assist regeneration of natural landscapes affected by major regional bushfires.
In his episode*: Bushfire recovery and conservation of natural places in South East Queensland,* Paul describes the enhanced public appreciation of natural park areas resulting from increased visiting during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Our discussion goes onto consider how such interest can be leveraged to achieve greater support and resourcing of the natural area estate, and what the future could hold for NRM in S.E. Queensland in a post-COVID future.

Coming Soon! **Ian Whan: retired resource economist, farmer and community capacity builder.** Ian became immersed in community activities after moving to the Felton valley, near Toowoomba. He was president of the Friends of Felton group when, in 2012, a proposal to establish a coal mine there was defeated. He is now focused on the problem of roadside litter, seeing it as a failure by communities to appreciate the inherent value of roadsides as open spaces. *In his episode: roadside littering is not okay,* we discuss the immediate local blight and environmental impact produced by roadside litter; linking that to bigger picture opportunities and state government strategies, which could provide more effective control of waste streams in a post COVID-19, circular economy in S.E. QLD.