



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350

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HOPE Enews Bulletin 2015 #6 --- 14 June 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.

Deadline for articles is 15th 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)

Editorial

The HOPE management team need your help! Please read the articles in the Office News section on Succession Planning and Positions Vacant - as without your support we cannot maintain our high levels of activities locally, state-wide and nationally.

Our feature article this month comes from the Nature Conservancy of Australia. An international movement that now has a presence in Australia.

We have introduced a new section called "Did you know?" which contains some interesting snippets from the variety of e: newsletters.

Congratulations and best wishes to Charmaine Atkinson (our regular newsletter editor) on her June wedding to Peter Turnbull.

The focus of our July newsletter is the International Year of Soils. We have some articles already and several more on the way. If you too wish to submit an article on landcare and/or Natural Resource Management, please forward your contribution to office@hopeaustralia.org.au by the 15th of July.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

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

International Year of Soils - <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/>

JUNE

- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 6 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba) – Back to Basics (various speakers)**
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 13 **HOPE Ordinary Meeting (Toowoomba)**
- 15 [Global Wind Day](#)
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

JULY

- 4 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba) – Junior Landcare by Qld Water and Land Carers**
- 7-14 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 11 [World Population Day](#)
- 22 **HOPE information display at USQ Market Day**
- 25 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 27 [National Tree Day](#)

AUGUST

- 1 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba) – State of the Park by National Parks Assn of Qld**
- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 9 **HOPE information display at Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival**
- 12 [International Youth Day](#)
- 15-23 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 19 **HOPE information display at U3A Toowoomba's Seniors Expo**
- 24-30 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)
- 23-28 [World Water Week](#)

Date Claimer

13-20 June 2015 WATERWAYS, WALKS & Wi-Fi

Intrepid artists James Cunningham & Suzon Fuks travelled 7500 km through Queensland exploring creeks from tropical Cairns, through the mining towns and dusty trails of the vast outback collecting data and exploring physical & digital connections to our environment. The pair has returned to Brisbane to present an interactive art installation called FLUIDATA.

Opening June 13th, 6pm. Exhibition runs June 13-20.

Live performances on 13-14 & 18, 19 & 20 June

The Block, QUT Creative Industries Precinct, Kelvin Grove

FREE ADMISSION

About: http://www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=2450

Facebook Event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1570583656540863/>

12-13 August 2015 -- Australasian Waste & Recycling Expo -- Melbourne

[Register free now](#) and be part of the industry's most influential gathering of waste and recycling professionals for two days of networking, innovation and industry insights driving businesses forward

Sunday, 13 September 2015 – Sustainable House Day

We are pleased to announce that the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) and EnviroShop will be partnering to deliver Sustainable House Day on **Sunday 13 September 2015**.

You can read more about the new partnership between ATA and EnviroShop here at www.sustainablehouseday.com/about-shd.

HOPE requests

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 photocopy paper and we are asking our members and supporters to donate a ream or two of A4 photocopy 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.

Office News Report – June 2015

Good afternoon folks,

The past few weeks at the office have been busier than usual - and being short-staffed hasn't helped. Quite a lot of time was spent on organising and promoting the 6th of June community forum; preparing for the 13th of June quarterly Ordinary Meeting; and the production of this newsletter.

As stated in previous e: newsletters, we have a number of vacancies on the Management Committee and in Admin Support. For HOPE Australia to function effectively and consistently at the local, state and national levels, we need your support.

Please take note of the Succession Planning and Positions Vacant articles – and, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please consider stepping up to help with the running of our organisation.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Report on Community Forum held on 6 June



We welcomed 7 speakers to the June community forum. Each person spoke for about 10 minutes on their chosen Back to Basics topic.

Topics covered included backyard organic gardening; low density irrigation; Local Energy Trading Systems (aka Community Exchange program); the benefits of solar PV electricity; weed control and bush regeneration (Friends of the Escarpment Parks) – and the allocated 10 minutes was way too short for each area of interest, but they did well!

The Q&A session with the the full panel of speakers was animated and interesting.

The exchange of information and provided literature was appreciated by all in attendance.

Report on Ordinary Meeting held on 13 June

For the effort that went into planning and holding the quarterly meeting, it was disappointing that we had 3 members in attendance and 8 apologies.

Key matters discussed and actioned included:

- the adoption of the Business Plan as drafted by Joseph Mula
 - the lapsing of the Membership Fee Options proposal
 - focus on attracting corporate sponsorship
 - Succession Planning to be noted in June e: newsletter
 - advertise vacancies on the Management Committee and Admin Support in the June e: newsletter
 - recruiting more volunteers – do more promotion at University of Southern Queensland (USQ)
-

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.

Succession Planning – a few words from the President

I have been involved with HOPE since 1993. Firstly, as the Convenor of HOPE Toowoomba and then as Coordinator of HOPE Queensland.

In 2007, HOPE became an incorporated association - establishing HOPE Australia as a network of members and supporters promoting sustainable living practices.

I was elected as the inaugural President of HOPE and have retained that position ever since.

My wish was to step down as President of HOPE when I turned 60. That was 2 years ago!

We need to recruit people with “an appropriate mix of expertise and experience” to strengthen our management committee and admin support staff.

Ideally, the Vice President would be groomed to step up into the President’s chair for 2-3 years to provide stability, continuity and leadership to the group.

Members of the admin support staff are invited to step up and assume roles on the management committee.

Others are then encouraged to step up into admin support roles.

I invite you to consider what you might be able to personally contribute – and who else we could recruit to fill vacant positions on the management committee and admin support areas.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

Positions Vacant

Due to the recent departures of key committee and admin support staff, we are in urgent need of extra personnel to fill the following vacancies:

- Vice President - duties include chairing meetings; and provide media comment projects, campaigns and general activities
- Website Manager - maintain ‘freshness’ of website by doing regular maintenance; and sourcing new material
- Admin support – various tasks from helping with internet research, article writing, media support and staffing of information displays, etc. at community events
- State Liaison Officers to be responsible for promoting HOPE in their jurisdictions
- Newsletter Team to solicit and/or write articles – with the editor compiling the newsletter
- Media Team to prepare media releases, community service announcements, date claimers, etc.; and to assist with research and writing (feature) articles
- Website Manager to keep information up-to-date
- Librarian – to complete the cataloguing of our resources; and to undertake weekly maintenance updates

So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

Office Hours

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

Phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming along for a chat or to access the library.

Did you know?

GM-free food in demand

GM-free countries are capturing markets from US GM farmers as shoppers create 'a surge in imports from other (GM-free) nations'. US Mexican-style chain Chipotle has gone GM-free and shoppers are buying more fresh fruits and veges. As GM soy, corn, canola, cotton and sugarbeet are only in processed foods and animal feed, shoppers choose GM-free. Australian GM-free canola premiums remain up to \$50/tonne.

Environmental Working Group (EWG) - <http://www.ewg.org/research/bpa-canned-food>

The Environmental Working Group's mission is to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, we drive consumer choice and civic action.

We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment.

We work for you. Do you know what's in your tap water? What about your shampoo? What's lurking in the cleaners underneath your sink? What pesticides are on your food? How about the farms, fracking wells and factories in your local area? Do you know what safeguards they use to protect your water, soil, air and your kids? Which large agribusinesses get your tax dollars and why? What are GMOs? What do they do to our land and water?

BPA (Bisphenol A) in Canned Food - Behind the Brand Curtain

TAKE ACTION

More than 75 brands use cans lined with BPA-laden epoxy for all their products.

Take action today to demand that these companies stop using this dangerous chemical.

You may know that bisphenol A, a synthetic estrogen found in the epoxy coatings of food cans, has been linked to many health problems. Many companies have publicly pledged to stop using BPA in their cans. But consumers like you have had no way to know which canned foods use BPA-based epoxy. Until now.

EWG analyzed 252 canned food brands, mostly between January and August 2014, to find out which of them packed their food into cans

coated with BPA-laden epoxy. Here's what we discovered.

How to get healthy soil - <http://www.greenlifestylemag.com.au/features/2786/how-soil-health>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - <http://www.unep.org/wed/multimedia/videos.asp>



WASTE – The environmental cost of food waste

An informative short film on the relationship between food waste and resource waste. A film production of SCHNITTSTELLE THURN GbR commissioned by WWF Germany and UNEP in collaboration with SIWI and FAO.

[Watch Video](#)

Feature Articles



The Nature Conservancy Australia

TNC Mission

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.

The Nature Conservancy (Global) The Nature Conservancy was founded 1951 in Washington DC. TNC is one of the world's leading conservation

organisation. We work in more than 35 countries and globally have a staff of nearly 4,000 including 600 scientists.

Globally TNC has protected more than 119 million acres of land and thousands of miles of rivers worldwide — and operates more than 100 marine conservation projects.

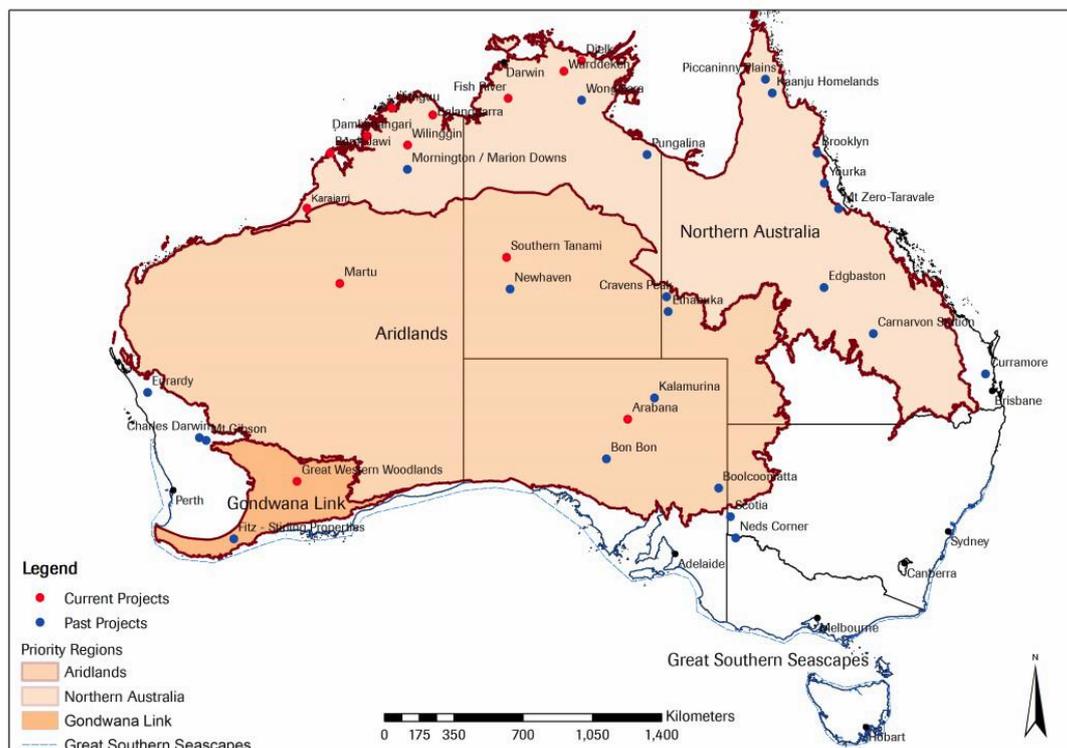
We are scientific. We approach conservation scientifically to deliver the maximum impact. We have over 600 expert staff scientists, who have pioneered countless innovative conservation solutions, from re-growing coral reefs and planning dams, to mapping wildlife corridors.

We collaborate. We believe in working together to create lasting change. We are experts at building coalitions with governments, businesses, indigenous communities and non-profits.

We work locally and globally. We work in more than 35 countries around the world, because we are focused on effectively protecting the world's most ecologically important places – many of which are right here in Australia.

We make our work count. Some groups specialise in policy, others in conservation — but only The Nature Conservancy is positioned to do both. That's how we can scale-up our best projects to deliver the largest possible impact.

TNC Australia Program TNC works in more than 35 countries and has been in Australia for the past decade. We work very differently to other conservation organisations. We have a scientific and collaborative approach, which means we can deliver conservation on a huge scale. We work with many different partners, such as local communities, governments, indigenous groups, businesses and other conservation groups to achieve maximum results for the environment from limited resources.



Four Australia Program Milestone Achievements

1. TNC began working in Australia in 2002 and since then we've collaborated with a wide array of partners to support conservation efforts across more than **127 million hectares of Australia's lands and waters**.
2. On 6th October 2011 we worked with partners to help with the purchase the former cattle station, **Fish River Station**. This was a landmark project for TNC. The project has delivered some great achievements including **fire management** and **conservation of the plants and animal life** and their habitats across the **across the 180,000 hectares of land**.
3. We added the **10th Indigenous Protected Area (IPAs)** in Karajarri country in May 2014. TNC has assisted Indigenous groups with the protection of a total of **19.6 million hectares across northern and central Australia**.
4. In October 2014 we launched the **Great Southern Seascapes Program** which aims to restore **shellfish reefs which should boost fish numbers, create more clean water**

Additional Australia Program Fast Facts

- We're working to conserve the Great Western Woodlands, **the world's largest intact temperate woodland**. The Great Western Woodlands is one of our richest biological areas, **home to hundreds of species of native birds and over 3,300 flowering plant species**
- We've funded surveys and developed effective management programs to increase and **protect the populations of the White-throated Grasswren and the Black Grasswren**
- We have funded surveys to estimate population numbers of the **Norfolk Island Parakeet**. Since the surveys revealed the dire state of the parrots' population, changed management has seen numbers increase significantly
- The Fish River Station Fire Program has achieved **90% of reduction in fires** and **reduced carbon emissions by 40,000 tonnes since 2010 – which is equivalent to taking 15,000 cars off the road for a year**
- We've **helped double the conservation reserve network** from 8% to 16% of Australia over the past decade

Toowoomba News

Toowoomba Home Produce Swap group

The Toowoomba Home Produce Swap group is for like-minded folk in the Toowoomba area who have excess home produce and other home products that are swapped, shared and gifted with other members.

All manner of home grown and/or made produce is swapped including: fruit, veg, nuts, sprouts, home baked goods, preserves, eggs, seedlings and plants (edible and non-edible), seeds for planting, honey, olives and fermented foods.

The group holds monthly swap meets at the East Creek Neighbourhood Centre in Kitchener St, Toowoomba; the first Saturday of each month, 9am to 11am (cuppa and chat) with fenced area for child safety.

Individual swaps and shares occur frequently.

It is not a forum for cash sales; the swap meets are strictly cash less.

We don't just swap; we also share and give such things as re-usable objects (egg cartons, clean glass jars, etc.). We share information and knowledge on gardening and other home activities (preserving, poultry keeping, composting, worm farming), pose questions and share successes. We also have a magazine circle (donated gardening magazines are lent out to members).

Membership is free and new members are welcome.

Contact details:

Facebook: Toowoomba Home Produce Swap group

Email: toowoombaproduceswap@yahoo.com.au | Phone Julie on: 0488 932 933

Queensland News

Volunteer lawyers needed for our evening advice line



We are currently seeking lawyers experienced in planning and environment law to help staff our telephone advice line, one evening a month (5.30pm – 7.30pm) at our West End office.

Diversify your experience and help wonderful hard working people, from all over Queensland, who cannot afford to consult a private solicitor.

Advice queries spread across local, state and national laws, and often relate to issues such as planning and development

processes, pollution incidents and wildlife management. If you are interested please send your CV and a covering email to edoqld@edo.org.au or call 07 3211 4466.

Queensland Heritage Council - <http://www.qldheritage.org.au/>

The Queensland Heritage Council is the State's independent advisor on heritage matters. The council works to identify and protect places that have special cultural heritage value to the community and for future generations.

The Queensland Heritage Council was established by the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, which requires the council to act independently, impartially and in the public interest.

The Queensland Heritage Council is the key decision-maker about places of cultural heritage significance to Queensland, deciding what is entered in or removed from the Queensland Heritage Register.

Places entered in the Queensland Heritage Register are considered to be of importance to Queensland's community as a whole, and are protected under heritage legislation.

The Queensland Heritage Council also:

- provides strategic advice on heritage matters to the Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Dr Steven Miles;
- works with government departments and community organisations to conserve culturally significant places and spaces;
- lobbies and advocates on behalf of owners of heritage places educates; and
- informs the community about Queensland's cultural heritage.

The Queensland Heritage Council receives professional advice and administrative support from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's Heritage Branch

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

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National News

(Articles written by Max Logan, HOPE volunteer (Qld))

ECOS – Science for Sustainability - <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/>

ECOS is an Australian magazine that focuses on sustainability issues from a scientific perspective. It is produced in conjunction with research by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

First published in 1974, the magazine moved to an online format in 2011 but is still enjoyed by a wide readership in workplaces, government departments, universities, libraries, and environment centres.

The ECOS Archive has articles from the last 40 years of publication available for viewing via the website while the blogs give readers access to some of the latest articles and sustainability news.

For more information on ECOS please visit the website or to view the Archive direct go to <http://www.ecosmagazine.com/nid/206.htm>.



The Alternative Technology Association - <http://www.ata.org.au>

The Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at inspiring and assisting Australians to make sustainable choices in their homes and communities. Since 1980 the group have provided expert information regarding environmentally sustainable choices in the household and industrial settings.

The ATA have not only assisted Australians to reduce their environmental footprint but also save money while doing so. Positive choices regarding energy efficiency, solar power, rainwater management, and building materials can make all the difference to the environment and sustainability.

The ATA currently publish two market-leading sustainable living magazines: *Sanctuary: modern green homes* and *ReNew: technology for a sustainable future*.

Membership to the ATA costs as little as \$50 per year and includes the expert advice for homeowners and businesses as well as access to magazines and further information.

For more information please visit the website.



GREEN LIFESTYLE DIRECTORY

Do you need a fridge removed for free? Are you looking for some eco-friendly children's toys? Need advice on straw-bale construction? Then check out our [Green Listings Directory](#) - it's a fantastic resource for green products and services. If you're a green business - please create a listing so people can find you - it's free.

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering business card sized adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

World News

(Articles written by Max Logan, HOPE volunteer (Qld))

Climate Change: Impacts and Responses - <http://on-climate.com>

Climate Change: Impacts and Responses are a knowledge community brought together by a common concern for scientific policy and perspective regarding climate change.

The group is primarily comprised of academics, educators, administrators, researchers, and students who interact through a number of online mediums including social media platforms, scholarly journals and newsletters. The knowledge group also come together in a face-to-face setting at their annual International Conference on Climate Change. The eighth of such conferences will take place on the 21st and 22nd of April 2016 at the Vietnam National University in Hanoi.

The literature and academic material collected by the community includes [The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses](#), the *On Climate* book series, and the *Climate Change News Blog*, all of which are comprised of contributions from knowledge group members.

To join the community, attend the conference, and contribute to the knowledge database please go to <http://on-climate.com/about-the-community/community-membership>.

Elementa – Science of the Anthropocene - <https://www.elementascience.org>

Elementa is an organisation that focuses on *Open Science for the Public Good*. Knowledge derived from current journal articles and scientific research is provided to the world with a common goal: combat the challenges presented to the natural world by accelerated human impact.

Backed by similar organisations, and a number of US Universities, this non-profit initiative provides high-quality research and information in a timely manner.

In relation to their *Open Science for the Public Good* mantra, Elementa supports the concept of basic knowledge fostering sustainable solutions. A small volume of knowledge can make a big difference just as several basic steps towards environmental protection can have a positive impact.

For more information on Elementa or to view articles and videos please visit the website.



Resources

WEBSITE SUMMARIES (ARTICLES WRITTEN BY DAVID GRAHAM, HOPE VOLUNTEER (QLD))

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (Germany)

The Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research addresses the science of global change, climate impact and sustainable development through research, system analysis and modelling. The website presents results of this research, relevant and regularly updated news as well as a helpful range of research services and tools. Visit <https://www.pik-potsdam.de>

Green Building Council of Australia

The Green Building Council of Australia exists to develop the sustainable property market. To this end they have developed a Green Star Environmental Rating System including rating tools available design, construction of retail centres, schools and universities, multi-unit residential dwellings, industrial facilities and public buildings. The Green building Council of Australia is a leading educator in the sustainable housing industry and in the interests of continuing advocacy maintains close relationships with Federal, State and Local Governments. This website provides a comprehensive calendar of events such as Green Conferences and Green Industry Forums. Visit <http://www.gbca.org.au>

Yalwa

Yalwa operates an online local business directory offered in more than 20 English speaking countries. It is free and easy to use service. Yalwa business directory cater specifically for small business and allows users to browse, search and post business directory entries free of charge. Visit <http://www.yalwa.com.au>

Did you know?

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - <http://www.unep.org/wed/multimedia/videos.asp>



Food Waste Footprint

Each year 30% of global food production is lost after harvest, or wasted in shops, households or catering services. This represents USD \$750 billion worth of food every year. Find out about food wastage reduction methods. We all have to do our part in reducing food waste.

[Watch Video](#)

New titles from CSIRO Publishing - <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/18.htm>

- Clean Energy, Climate and Carbon
- Sustainable Futures - Linking Population, Resources and the Environment
- Living in a Warmer World - How a Changing Climate Will Affect Our Lives
- Biodiversity - Science and Solutions for Australia

New titles from Routledge Taylor & Francis Group - <http://www.routledge.com/>

- [Tourism in the Green Economy](#)
- [Workers and Trade Unions for Climate Solidarity - Tackling climate change in a neoliberal world](#)
- [Carbon Conflicts and Forest Landscapes in Africa](#)