



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE Enews Bulletin 2015 #7 --- 23 July 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

Hi everyone, I'm back! It looks like there was a fair bit going on during the months of June and July - doesn't seem to be much slower, does it? Sorry about the lateness of this newsletter but I've got tonsillitis and it's not playing well with the computer or my brain :->

So...what do we have in stock for you this month? First off – I would like to reiterate last month's plea from our officer manager regarding [positions vacant](#). HOPE is a volunteer organisation and it relies on members of our community to pitch in and help. If there is anything you would like to contribute or assist with, even on a semi-regular basis, please contact Frank our office manager with your details and how you think you could assist us.

Have you heard about the [home produce swap group](#)? If you have excess home grown fruit and vegies, why not head over to this group on [Facebook](#) and check them out?

This month's newsletter features articles in support of the International Year of Soils. Do you know anything about permaculture? What it is or how you can help the environment? One of our feature articles this month is on [Permaculture](#). Take a read of it and let us know what you think by emailing our office manager Frank, posting on our [Facebook page](#), or dropping us a line at our Twitter account @HOPE_Australia_

Do you only have a balcony, or a really small yard, but still want to grow food sustainably? Have a look in our resources section for the book review on [How to Grow Edibles in Containers](#). It might just change the way you look at life :-> If you would like to purchase the book, [click here](#) to go to the CSIRO website.

As always, if there is something you would like added to our next newsletter or you have an upcoming event you would like placed on our Facebook page, drop our office manager Frank an email and let him know what is going on, where it is and what it is about.

Charmaine – Newsletter Editor and Social Network Administrator

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.

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/>

JULY

- 22 **HOPE information display at USQ Market Day**
- 25 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 27 [National Tree Day](#)

AUGUST

- 1 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba) – Murray-Darling Basin Authority**
- 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](#)

SEPTEMBER

- [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 1 [National Wattle Day](#)
- 5 **HOPE community forum (Toowoomba) – Sustainable Housing**
- 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 12 **HOPE Ordinary Meeting**
- 13 [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 13 [Bushcare's Major Day Out](#)
- 13 [National Bilby Day](#)
- 14-16 **Youth Leading the World (YLtW) Congress (Toowoomba)**
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 24 [World Maritime Day](#)

Date Claimer

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.

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.

Office News Report – July 2015

Good morning folks,

As Charmaine stated in her editorial, there's always lots going on at the office and out in the wider community.

On the office front, Kerry (our much overloaded, but most appreciated and valuable, secretary, treasurer and website manager) and I have just completed synchronisation of the Membership Database with our Outlook e: address book; and a major upgrade of our website (www.hopeaustralia.org.au) – have a look for yourself.

We've also been busy sending out corporate sponsorship requests in an effort to gain some much needed income to defray our annual operating expenses; and to enable us to more effectively promote new projects, events and activities.

If you can spare some of your time and talents to help with committee or admin work; or even to help with fund-raising, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

The 4 July community forum featured Mr Darryl Ebenezer from Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC - <http://qwalc.org.au/>). Darryl gave an overview of QWaLC followed by a detailed talk on Junior Landcare. It is hoped that primary and secondary schools students, as well as scouts and girl guides, throughout Queensland will support the national "Landcare Is For Everyone" program - http://www.landcareonline.com.au/?page_id=9196 .

Planning and preparation for upcoming information displays at the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (9 Aug), U3A Seniors Expo (19 Aug) and the Youth Leading the World Congress (14-16 Sept) are progressing well. Volunteers are required to help with transporting equipment and materials to from these events, as well as staffing the display areas. Please phone the office to offer your services at one or more of these events.

Regards,

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

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.

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 .

Feature Articles

 <p>2015 International Year of Soils</p>	<p>International Year of Soils - http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/en/</p>
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SOIL AND FOOD SECURITY by Shannon Michael, HOPE Volunteer (Qld)

During the World Food Summit of 1996 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations formally defined *food security* as “[existing] when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. One of the primary threats to food security is the degradation of least appreciated, non-renewable resource we use: **soil**.

Soil is considered a non-renewable resource as it takes thousands of years to form from eroding rocks and sediments and requires very specific topographical, meteorological, and biological conditions. This underappreciated phenomena has resulted in the unsustainable pillaging of the Earth’s soil through intense agricultural practises and has resulted in reduced soil health.

Soil health and food security go hand-in-hand and with estimates of the human population reaching 9 billion by 2050, a greater understanding and appreciation of soil needs to be reached. Only now are we starting to observe the effects of poor soil health on food production and appreciate the importance of maintaining healthy soils for greater food security.

Healthy soils function as living systems; they boast a huge diversity of micro-organisms (microbes) and provide vital services. These microbes maintain soil structure (soil is highly structured contrary to popular belief), regulate nutrient and water cycles within the soil and the atmosphere (including soil detoxification and decomposition of organic matter), carbon sequestration (i.e. the capture and long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide, which aids in the mitigation of climate change), and are involved in symbiotic relationships with plants (some bacteria and fungi capture atmospheric nitrogen and convert it into a usable form for plants).

As food production demands have increased and agricultural practices intensified, a depletion in soil health has resulted and is threatening food security. As land is cleared for agriculture, the unseen root systems within the soil are destroyed. These root systems provide habitats and food sources for microbes and therefore, their degradation and destruction results in a decrease of microbe biodiversity within the soil. Without these microbes, the health of the soil deteriorates and plant life is unable to grow.

The loss of microbe biodiversity in soils has resulted in fertilizers and pesticides being required for crop production. They are required because nutrients cannot be recycled in the soil, as the recyclers (the microbes) have been eradicated. These fertilizers and pesticides are easily over- and mis-used which can result in soil and water contamination, thereby enhancing the threat to food security.

In recent years, we have come to realize that all the natural services provided by soil microbes cannot be artificially replaced, so it is paramount that sustainable practises are developed and implemented to ensure the viable future of food security. The protection of soil health is vital to maintain soil structure, nutrient and water cycles, and mitigate climate change: *none of which humans have been able to replicate*.

Renowned geneticist and leader of the “Green Revolution” in India, M. S. Swaminathan, once said “Soil anaemia also breeds human anaemia. Micronutrient deficiency in the soil results in micronutrient malnutrition in people, since crops grown on such soils tend to be deficient in the nutrients needed to fight hidden hunger.” Without healthy soils, food production can be seriously hindered and nutrient-deficient food would be produced; and as such, the importance of healthy soils needs to be promoted and realized.

In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly declared that 2015 shall be the **International Year of Soils (IYS)**. The IYS aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. We trust that this article sparks your awareness of the issue and invites you to read further. More information regarding soil health protection and events during the IYS can be found on their website: <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/about/en/>

THE SOIL SOLUTION – an abstract by Shannon Michael (HOPE Volunteer, Qld)

--- Original Article by [Graeme Sait, Nutri-Tech Solutions](#)

(Full article available at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/resources/sundry-publications/>)

Soil health has been shown to directly affect plant, animal, and even human health. Whilst also impacting on topsoil erosion, water management, and ocean acidification; soil health is also now recognized as an important factor in climate shift mitigation as global warming has been directly related to soil mismanagement. While in the UK, Graeme Sait met with a professor that conducted a survey of leading British scientists and found that as many as one in five believe humans will become extinct by the end of the century or earlier. With the recognition of the importance of maintaining soil health, the United Nations has named 2015 the International Year of Soils with aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

The five primary threats to our sustainability and long-term survival are loss of topsoil, ocean acidifications, ocean warming, food security, and declining food nutrition- all of which are related to soil and soil health. The loss of topsoil has resulted in a loss of the soil humus (the organic layer of the soil that houses microbes and minerals). Ocean acidification is resulting in coral reefs and phytoplankton struggling for survival as they cannot produce their calcium based shells in an acidic environment, which is especially disconcerting as 500 million people directly depend on coral reefs and 60% of our atmospheric oxygen is produced by phytoplankton. The warming of the oceans could result in the release of methane and carbon dioxide which would compound the current greenhouse effect. Food security is also becoming an increasing worrying issue as many countries are currently facing these issues and it could result in economic recession. Declining food nutrition can be linked to the loss of the soil humus, as the non-renewable use of the minerals causes plants to be immunodeficient and hypo-nutritious as they face low mineral sources.

The solution to these issues is rejuvenating the humus. It may seem like an exaggeration to claim that the humus could reverse the climate shift, but once the carbon cycle is understood the claim becomes less sensationalized. Carbon cycles between life-forms, the atmosphere, and the humus- no new carbon is created, but only cycles. Over two-thirds of the carbon that was once stored in the humus is now in the atmosphere acting as a blanket and trapping large amounts of heat. The obvious solution is to return this carbon back to the humus by rebuilding and improving soil and soil health through various strategies including composting, modified tillage, intelligent grazing, and mycorrhizal fungi. It is estimated that a global increase of 1.6% organic matter is sufficient to reduce CO₂ levels from 400ppm (parts per million) to 300ppm, which would effectively reverse global warming.

THE ESSENTIALS OF GOOD SOIL AND WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEDY PROBLEMS

by Jerry Coleby-Williams RHS, Dip. Hort. (Kew), NEBSM, MAIH

Soil is a limited natural resource. You can improve it, you can modify it, you can move it around – and you can lose it. What you can't do is make it. Only nature can do that. Sustainable cultivation and soil improvement is vital to our gardens, and it's important to see soil as a living part of a system, not just the dirt that stops your crops from falling over!

What gardeners are aiming for are well composted soils that are carbon-rich, which makes them 'strong'. This means in part that the soil retains moisture well and buffers crops against fluctuating moisture levels. They soak up heavy, persistent rain and retain minerals yet drain efficiently, reducing flooding and crop losses.

Dealing with extremes

Ultimately though, most gardeners do not have perfect soil, certainly not to start with. The two extremes gardeners must battle are sand and clay. A gardening friend on Queensland's Sunshine Coast had dune sand that poured between her fingers. Unfortunate for vegetable growing! Five years of organic stewardship – by adding lots of organic matter – transformed it into fertile, crumbly soil.

In contrast, I grew up gardening on heavy clay in London, but even I was surprised when I moved to Brisbane where my clay soil broke a hired rotary hoe! It took five years of remedial organic gardening before I became proud of my soil (see organicgardener.com.au for details of how I did this).

To find out where your soil sits on the clay-sand spectrum, moisten some and mould it into a ball. If it won't hold together, you've probably got sand or a sandy/silty mix. If it forms a ball easily, your soil is clay or a loamy/clay mix.

To improve clay soils, you need to add lots of organic matter on a regular basis in the form of compost and well-aged manures. This helps to change the soil structure from big hard clods to smaller aggregates which create air spaces for water to enter and drain away more freely. Working natural gypsum into the soil can have a similar effect, but only on certain clay types. Conduct a simple test. Drop a small 5mm aggregate of soil into a glass of water and leave it sit still for 24hrs. Watch it carefully. If it disperses slowly into the water, it will respond positively to gypsum. If it does nothing, then gypsum will have no effect.

A regular application of organic matter is the key to improving sandy soil too. Some sandy soils are known to become hydrophobic from time to time, which means they repel water, so it pays to use an organic humus-based wetting agent occasionally to maintain the 'wettability'.

Soil testing

If your soil has mineral deficiencies, this influences crop health and its nutritional value. Compost made from mineral-deficient plants recycles deficiencies. The more reliant you are on home grown food, the more valuable laboratory soil testing becomes. The results guide soil improvement work and may save time, effort and resources.

Testing can also identify contaminants that may limit your range of crops. Residues from termite treatments or heavy metals like lead tend to accumulate in root crops. The National Measurement Institute can discuss which tests, if any, might be appropriate for your garden.

Soil tests can be done at government and commercial laboratories with costs ranging from \$50 to \$500 depending on how much detail you want and the lab. Here is a selected list of laboratories. For more options, look online or in the Yellow Pages under 'Soil Testing and Investigation'.

pH – the holy grail

The gardener's 'holy grail' is soil that is slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6.5 - 7). In these conditions the majority of beneficial minerals become chemically available so that plants can use them. In more extreme conditions valuable minerals may be present but not available to plants or, like manganese, become too available and harmful.

Testing is quick and simple. All you need is a test kit (available at garden centres) and a level teaspoonful of your soil per test. Expect results to vary between different parts of the garden, so use multiple tests to build an overall picture. The best time to test is in autumn after crops have been cleared – it's also a convenient time to condition soil.

Note that soil pH is a measure of the hydrogen ion activity, and is recorded on a scale ranging from 0 (extremely acidic) to 14 (extremely alkaline) and 7 is neutral. It is important to follow a manufacturer's recommended rate of application for concentrated soil conditioners, like iron sulphate, because this scale is logarithmic. So soil with a pH of 4 is 10 times more acidic than a pH 5 soil, and 1,000 (one thousand) times more acidic than a neutral, or pH 7 soil.

Soil conditioners

Once you've established what condition your soil is in and its nutrient content, you can go about improving it. Here are some general notes you can use, along with the soil improvement table.

Most Australian soils are acidic. Adding garden lime or dolomite counteracts this acidity or 'sweetens' the soil. Both contain calcium, a mineral underestimated for its contribution to plant health and vitality. Dolomite also contains magnesium, a mineral plants use to photosynthesize. Lime is cheap, and magnesium readily leached from soil, so I recommend gardeners use both, mixing them in equal proportions before application.

South Australian gardens are known for their alkaline soils, a condition neutralised by raking in powdered sulphur. This mineral is slow acting, and one application may last three or more years. For quick effect, gardeners water in iron sulphate which lasts for around one season.

Gypsum has no effect on soil pH; instead it breaks up thick clay into smaller, 'crumbly' particles. It's also essential for making saline (sodic) soils suitable for cropping. The only drawback is that gypsum makes clays found in acid-sulphate soils more gluey. Soils with this potential are found all around coastal Australia, including Tasmania. Contact your local department of primary industry to find out if your region is affected.

Animal Manures

In the paddock, dung beetles recycle droppings, burying them to feed their larvae. Horse, pig and poultry manures are classed as 'hot' manures. They contain lots of nitrogen which fuels thermophilic bacteria into a feeding frenzy, and this generates sufficient heat to destroy weed seeds.

Poultry manure is probably the most concentrated fertiliser organic gardener's use. It's useful for hungry crops, like corn, taro, and especially banana, providing a wider range of essential minerals than any so-called 'complete' artificial fertilisers.

'Cool' manures, like sheep, cow and goat; contain relatively small amounts of minerals, so they're generally classed as soil conditioners. They are still biologically active, especially if they contain nitrogen-rich urine soaked bedding materials, like straw. It's wise to harness the nitrogen component of fresh manures through composting; otherwise it may be wasted as ammonia gas, which can harm plants.

Things to avoid

Avoid concentrated chemicals like superphosphate, sulphate of potash, muriate of potash, and urea. Concentrates injure earthworms and are not permitted in certified organic systems. Organic soils

better resist erosion and they don't leach nutrients so creeks, wetlands and coral reefs are spared pollution, which makes any food you grow taste even better!

[DID YOU KNOW?]

Legume green manures

It's popular misconception that simply growing legumes, such as lentil, fenugreek, soy, or broad bean adds nitrogen to soil. Nitrogen fixing bacteria live in 'nodules', small swellings on roots, where they convert atmospheric nitrogen into nitrates. Only when a green manure is dug in and the nodules rot are nitrates released for plant use.

POSSIBLE EYECATCHER

If your soil has mineral deficiencies, this influences crop health and its nutritional value to humans and livestock.

J1 CAN GO ANYWHERE

Jerry always has a selection of soil and nutrient improvers to hand: poultry manure, dolomite and lime mix, iron sulphate, seaweed solution, trace elements.

JERRY COLEBY-WILLIAMS RHS, Dip. Hort. (Kew), NEBSM, MAIH;

Director, Seed Savers' Network;

Patron of Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. and

Co-founder of Bellis, Brisbane's award-winning sustainable house and garden.

This article first appeared in 'The Organic Gardener' magazine.

JUST PERMACULTURE YOUR LIFE –by Christopher Kelly-Bisson



The beauty of permaculture design is that it applies to virtually anything. The universe – including all of its physical and imaginary parts, is highly complex and systematic in nature. Permaculture design is at its very core a way of creating working and lasting systems out of complexity in order to meet our human needs. My recommendation is to simply read, study and contemplate the many wonderful works of permaculture thinkers, and just apply it to what you are already doing; or what you would like to do.

Permaculture is therefore not a “thing”, but a “way of doing a thing”. One does not do permaculture, one does something in a permaculture way. If you are a web developer you do not need to sell all of your things and head back to the country to do permaculture; you can simply permaculture your web development work.

Good permaculture starts when you really sit down with photos, maps, paper and spreadsheets – when you observe a system deeply that you are a part of. Good permaculture happens when you improve a system to be more harmonious, efficient, effective, and equitable. It is not an ideology, it is a process. You cannot create an ideal permaculture world, you can only practice permaculture.

The worst thing that new permaculturists do is proselytize. This world does not need more people who think they know how to do things the ideal way, and then impose it on everyone. The world needs more people to sit down, think systematically about the world they live in and apply the process of permaculture design to what they do. If you live and work in a city you can make your life more sustainable and liveable. If you are a farmer you may be able to gradually increase long-term yields of certain crops by following the way the local ecosystems function (too little scientific evidence to actually claim this yet). If you are a university student you can organize your timetable, activities and social life to support each other and not take so much time and energy. If you are a policy maker or activist you can help push for a world that is more socially and ecologically just through systematic and democratic thinking, planning, and movement building. Just get out there and get into the permaculture process!!! For further information about Savour Soil Permaculture visit <http://www.savoursoilpermaculture.com.au/>

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

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

Youth Leading the World Congress returns to Toowoomba in 2015!



(Image: 2014 YLTW delegates, Toowoomba, QLD)

OzGreen's Youth Leading the World is returning to Toowoomba in 2015. After some great success last year, the team is preparing for another action-packed three-day congress in September.

Over the three days delegates will explore local and global issues of sustainability, measure and understand their own eco-footprint, and work on action plans to make changes in their lives, schools and communities.

When: 14-16 September (Monday—Wednesday) 2015, 9am - 3pm

Where: The Cedar Centre near the USQ Campus, Toowoomba

Who: Environmentally-minded students from year 10-12

Costs Free! Students will need to get to and from the congress and provide their own food on day 1 and 2.

Accommodation options are available for schools outside of the local area

Contact Cam Mackenzie at Amaroo to register or for more information via cmack18@eq.edu.au

(Information on OzGreen and their many initiatives may be found at <http://www.ozgreen.org.au/> .

Vale Felicity Wishart – Queensland’s Leading Environmentalist



The Queensland Conservation Council and Queensland environment groups are in mourning for Felicity ‘Flic’ Wishart, a former Coordinator of QCC and long term leader in the Queensland environment movement. Felicity unexpectedly died in her sleep on Sunday night.

Felicity Wishart was the Coordinator at Queensland Conservation Council from 2000 to 2004. She was a powerful and creative campaigner throughout her life, playing a fundamental role in many of the key environment campaigns in Queensland and Australia.

Her intelligence, energy and courage in working to protect the places we know and love were obvious and extraordinary.

Felicity was a mentor to many people in the environment movement in Queensland and across Australia, inspiring them with her passion to protect the environment. She especially encouraged many young women in the movement, who now follow in her mighty footsteps.

She led the campaign to stop land clearing in Queensland that resulted in a moratorium on clearing followed by a legislated phase out of broad-scale land clearing by 2006.

She oversaw other successful campaigns in her time at QCC including the Wild Rivers campaign that culminated in the Wild Rivers legislation, the defeat of the aquaculture fish farm proposal for Moreton Bay; the climate change programme to reduce household greenhouse pollution and Smogbusters clean air and sustainable transport campaign.

She was a beloved mentor and guide, friend and confidant, inspiration and leader, mother and partner.

Queensland Conservation Council continues Felicity’s work and will honour her legacy into the future.

Our hearts are with her family, including her partner and two young sons.

Nichola (Nicky) Hungerford

Coordinator - **Queensland Conservation Council**

9/10 Thomas Street, West End, QLD 4101

Office: 07 - 3846 7833 | **Mob:** 0419 664 503 | **Email:** coordinator@qldconservation.org.au

2015 PREMIER’S SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2015 Premier’s Sustainability Awards that recognises the achievements of Queensland communities, schools, individuals, businesses and industries in adopting sustainable business practices. Entries close on Friday 14 August 2015 so be quick and nominate your Queensland-based project or initiative now at www.ehp.qld.gov.au/premiersawards. Cash prizes on offer for category winners.

FOODCONNECT - <https://www.foodconnect.com.au/>

FoodConnect is a Southeast Queensland-based social enterprise that specialises in the fair trade and distribution of fresh produce.

Over the last 8 years, FoodConnect has been providing their customers with freshly grown produce sourced from local farms and small businesses. The enterprise offers a wide range of products including fruit, vegetables, nuts, meat, jams, bread and bakery items, herbs, juices, and gifts.

FoodConnect can ensure the freshness and quality of their products by sourcing them locally and minimising shipping distance. For the consumer this means a more nutritious product with less waste and pollution.

Small businesses and farms involved in the Fair Food Movement are given a fair price for their produce, which helps to build economic stability and avoid monopolisation of small communities.

To get involved in the Fair Food Movement please visit

<https://www.foodconnect.com.au/customer/account/create> *(Written by HOPE volunteer, Max Logan)*



In early 2014 a handful of women, Judy Brett, Clare Wright, Dur-e Dara and Mary Crooks, despairing at the inaction of the government, asked themselves if they could provide a mechanism for every Australian to voice their concern about securing a safe climate for this country.

Inspired by the 1891 Monster Petition which collected an impressive 30,000 signature in just

five weeks, they determined to follow in the footsteps of those suffragettes and enlist a band of committed women to do what they do best; use their networks to reach out to and include people of all ages from every imaginable section of society to put their signatures onto a second Monster Petition; this time the Monster Climate Petition.

Twelve women became the petitioners with Professor Fiona Stanley becoming the lead petitioner. Sponsored by and through the Victorian Women's Trust the networks swung into action and the ripples, formed by the initial idea thrown into the pond, spread and became waves that reached across the country. So much so, that by the November deadline the VWT had received petition forms totalling almost 72,000 signatures.

This petition was presented to the Federal Parliament on Wednesday December 3 by Prof Fiona Stanley AC, Mary Crooks AO, Judy Brett and Pam Robinson. It is the fifth largest petition ever to have been tabled in the Australian Federal Parliament. It embodies the concerns of people from all walks of life, all states, all ethnicities, all ages and all socio-economic backgrounds, who are united in their concern for the future of the planet and humanity in the face of climate change caused by carbon emissions. The plea is for immediate and concerted government action to regulate emissions and pursue renewable energies as an urgent priority.

The Monster Climate Petition has been kept open so that a second tabling can take place ahead of the crucial Paris Climate Summit in December this year. The G7 has flagged its desire for all nations to commit to reducing emissions at the Paris Conference and Pope Francis has also declared climate change the result of human activity. Perhaps both these events will persuade the Australian Government that the science is real and action is needed, but just in case they don't, we suggest you go to www.monsterclimatepetition.com.au download a petition form, (or five or six), and start collecting signatures. The details as to where to mail them are on the website.

Let's send a clear message to the government that we do want a sustainable future by making this the biggest petition ever tabled in the House of Representatives.

Did you know?

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?

Resources

WEBSITE SUMMARIES

ROUTLEDGE TAYLOR & FRANCIS GROUP - <http://www.routledge.com>

Routledge is a global publishing company and affiliate of the Taylor & Francis Group. The company was founded in 1836, and is currently the world's leading academic publisher in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Among recent publications from Routledge group is a book titled *Promoting Sustainable Living – Sustainability as an Object of Desire*. Written by [Justyna Karakiewicz](#), [Audrey Yue](#), and Angela Paladino, the book promotes the concept of sustainability from a new angle.

While much of the literature on the topic of sustainability focuses on the negative impacts of our current lifestyle choices and fear of what is to come for the natural world, *Promoting Sustainable Living* turns this idea on its head.

The authors have highlighted the importance of everyday sustainable living and its promotion as an object of desire – something to strive for and look forward to. Positivity in the face of adversity is a concept that could make a noticeable difference in the attitude and actions of people everywhere.

For more information please visit the website.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – INCORPORATING PLANTS AND ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY IN BUILDINGS AND URBAN ENVIRONMENTS – JOHN W. DOVER

With more than half of the world's population now living in urban areas, it is vitally important that towns and cities are healthy places to live. The principal aim of this book is to synthesize the disparate literature on the use of vegetation in the built environment and its multifunctional benefits to humans. The author reviews issues such as: contact with wildlife and its immediate and long-term effects on psychological and physical wellbeing; the role of vegetation in removing health-damaging pollutants from the air; green roofs and green walls, which provide insulation, reduce energy use and decrease the carbon footprint of buildings; and structural vegetation such as street trees, providing shading and air circulation whilst also helping to stop flash-floods through surface drainage. Examples are used throughout to illustrate the practical use of vegetation to improve the urban environment and deliver ecosystem services.

Whilst the underlying theme is the value of biodiversity, the emphasis is less on existing high-value green spaces (such as nature reserves, parks and gardens), than on the sealed surfaces of urban areas (building surfaces, roads, car parks, plazas, etc.). The book shows how these, and the spaces they encapsulate, can be modified to meet current and future environmental challenges including climate change. The value of existing green space is also covered to provide a comprehensive textbook of international relevance.

RenewEconomy - <http://reneweconomy.com.au>

RenewEconomy is an Australian website that specialises in providing up-to-date information on renewable and clean energy as well as climate policy.

The website gathers information from Australia and around the world, including major headlines, technical articles, commentary and opinion pieces, and in-depth articles from RenewEconomy founder known as The Parkinson Report.

Giles Parkinson is a journalist of 30 years, former Business Editor and Deputy Editor of the Australian Financial Review, a former columnist for The Bulletin magazine and The Australian, and the founder and former editor of Climate Spectator.

With Deputy Editor Sophie Vorrath, and corporate advisor on climate change and sustainability Paul Gilding, RenewEconomy will provide vital information at the forefront of the impending climate revolution. For more information or to contribute please visit the website.

Beyond Green - (<http://www.beyondgreen.net.au/>)

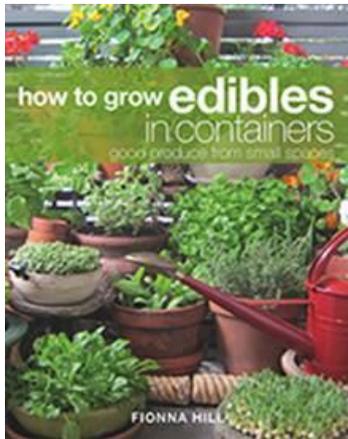
Beyond Green believes the environment movement must become braver, more radical. But also relevant to wider section of our communities. They believe this is a difficult task but also that we simply cannot continue to grow slowly, lose gracefully and hope that the science is wrong. Beyond Green plan to:

- Broaden the base of the environment movement through promoting rapid transition to economic equality and community wellbeing
- Introduce innovative and necessary policy into Australian political culture
- Run creative activist campaigns in Australia that link with our clear policy proposals

- Empower people to stand up against destructive people and institutions
- Give people accurate information on the best way they can minimize their impact on the planet

Beyond Green launched in January but have already run or launched 6 activist [campaigns](#), 3 of them ongoing. Soon they'll begin a comprehensive [policy development](#) process, including positive policies for economic equality and transition. They welcome your input and [involvement](#) in their current and future plans. Please [contact](#) them for more information.

BOOK REVIEW



How to grow edibles in containers: Good Produce from Small Spaces by Fiona Hill (May 2015)

(Paperback 108 pages, 258 x 204 mm; Publisher: CSIRO Publishing
ISBN: 9781486300914 - AU \$ 29.95)

From the author of the internationally successful *How to Grow Microgreens*, this companion volume is all about growing vegetables and herbs in limited spaces. Fiona grows a huge range of plants on her apartment balcony and writes candidly about which ones crop well, and which don't, and also introduces more unusual varieties, such as water chestnut, ginger and tatsoi. With over 45 edible plants described, there is something for all seasons. This title is a co-publication with David Bateman Publishing, New Zealand.
