



**Householders' Options to
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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #2 — 19 February 2014

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 [Kerry Kruger](mailto:Kerry.Kruger).

Hello

This month's newsletter contains some really important Environment Event date claimers for 2014. Please support them where you can. I also encourage you to support HOPE's meetings and projects as noted in the Office News Report.

Kerry Kruger, Newsletter Editor

Office News Report

Hello there,

Adding the monthly Community Forums program to our already busy calendar of events has certainly kept everyone here at the office very busy indeed.

A big thanks to all for stepping up to share the workload – especially Barry Miller for bringing the Membership Database up-to-date.

Strategic Planning Meetings

Our 2nd Strategic Planning Session meeting was held on 27 January. A big thanks to Helen Lewis (Inside Outside Management) for facilitating the discussions; and to the HOPE Management Committee and admin staff for their input.

Recommendations already acted upon include the refreshing of our newsletter template; a major overhaul of the website information; and a new "Helpful Hints" focus on our Facebook page.

→ *Please let us know if you approve of the changes; and/or if you have any suggested improvements.*

Lastly, Helen Lewis has indicated that draft a Business Plan and Sponsorship Prospectus will be available shortly for the management Committee's consideration.

Community Forums program

10 Feb -- The first monthly Community Forum meeting was held on Monday 10 February with Ms Stephanie Keays, a local architect and Secretary of the National Trust of Queensland, Toowoomba Branch, speaking on Heritage Protection and Conservation.

10 Mar -- Mr Clem Campbell, Queensland President of the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is our guest speaker for the 10 March community forum. Clem will talk about civil society's opportunity to discuss matters pertinent to the G20 meeting occurring in Brisbane later this year.

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by Friday 7 March to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

Ordinary Meeting, 10 Mar 2014

HOPE's next quarterly Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Monday 10 March in conjunction with our second Community Forum. The activities will commence at 7.30pm in the Dr Price Room, Little St., Toowoomba

The meeting will kick off with our guest speaker (as noted in the Community Forums section above), followed by a detailed discussion on the *Celebrating Our Environment Expo* being held on Wednesday 4 June at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), West St, Toowoomba.

All are welcome to attend. Please RSVP by Friday 7 March to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

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

HOPE calendar

- Morning teas (2nd Monday of the month)
- Community Forums – with guest speakers (2nd Monday evening of the month)
 - 10 Mar – Clem Campbell, United Nations Association of Australia speaking about civil society's opportunity to have input to G20 summit
 - 14 Apr – Good gardening practices
 - 12 May – Shelley Purser, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) – Dirty Gloves program
 - 14 Jul – Mark Copland, Social Justice Commission
- Information displays at community events such as Gardenfest (May), Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (Aug) and U3A Seniors Expo (Aug); and possibly school fetes/fairs
- 4 June – Celebrating Our Environment Expo, USQ, West St, Toowoomba --- Exhibitors welcome. Volunteers also required. Please phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to register your interest and/or to obtain further information

Calendar of events

MARCH

- 2 [Clean Up Australia Day](#)
- 3-9 [Sea Week](#)
- 8 [International Women's Day](#)
- 9-15 [National Ground Water Awareness Week](#)
- 19 [Ride2School Day](#)
- 20 [Close the Gap Day](#)
- 21 [International Day of Forests](#)
- 21 [Harmony Day](#)
- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 29 [Earth Hour](#)

We MAKE the
world we live in
and SHAPE our own
environment.

-ORISON SWETT MARDEN-

Date Claimers

[Green Cities 2014](#)



Green Cities 2014, from **18-19 March** in Melbourne, will be the ultimate destination for discussion, demonstration and debate on how to go beyond. Beyond market challenges. Beyond green wash. Beyond boundaries. Join us as we go beyond the baseline.

Community Energy Congress

Australia's first [Community Energy Congress](#) will be held in **Canberra on June 16-17, 2014**. If you want to start your own community energy group, learn more about how to develop a community renewable energy project, understand the national energy market or help influence government policy and strengthen the community energy sector, this is your event.

National Climate Adaptation Conference, 30 September – 2 October 2014 | Gold Coast

NCCARF in partnership with CSIRO will hold the climate change adaptation conference over three days at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland.

Call for abstracts will open February 2014 See: www.nccarf.edu.au

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance."

— [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

Feature Article



Are you looking for businesses which use our planet's resources to their full potential? Maybe you are after some products which make you think, "Why didn't I think of that?" If you answered yes to either of these questions, then the Todae lifestyle store could be what you have been missing in your hectic, last-minute planning, everything must be done NOW lifestyle.

Two of Australia's eco friendly retail giants, Biome and Todae, joined forces in September 2012 and have never looked back. You may be aware of Todae Solar.

This section did not join the merger and became their own entity which is available online: www.todaesolar.com.au For those of you who are not aware, Todae Solar specialise in solar installations. The Todae lifestyle store, which was established in 2003, is now part of the Biome community. This means they have a new name, 'welivehere', but they are still about connecting consumers with products they require and in an environmentally enthused package.

Todae's mission is, 'to unearth innovative and meaningful products that will help you, the consumer, create a world that reflects your values.'

There are several sections available on Todae's website, www.todae.com.au, and these include, but are not limited to:

- ECO products,
- lighting,
- house,
- travel,
- fashion and beauty, and
- baby and kids.



Imagine this....you get into work Monday morning and receive an email from one of your friends stating they can't wait until the festivities begin on Friday night. You then begin a mental checklist of those items you still need to pick up from the stores, like candles for a bit of

ambience...you jump onto the welivehere website and find Queen B beeswax candles for \$9.95 ea. Awesome. You can order them on Monday and they will be at your home by mid-week. Ambience? Check. Eco-friendly? Check. Good feeling for rest of the day? Check.



The welivehere company also has a gift section. Have a birthday coming up or want to give your special someone an eco-minded present for Valentine's Day? How about a leak proof travel mug or some 70% dark chocolate? For those campers amongst us, outdoor meal kits are available as are Titanium sporks (seen here – I swear this is not made up).



There are also products of the week for each section available online. For example, the lighting product of the week is the Brightgreen DR700 MR16 LED light bulb.

Have an idea for a product which is not currently available through the welivehere website?

Log in to <http://todae.squarespace.com/> and click on 'Suggest a product'. If your item is deemed clever, resourceful or problem-solving, it may get featured online. This is a great online store which allows people to pay reasonable prices for eco friendly items and receive them in a short timeframe. Go check out the website during a break and you will not regret it.

Volunteers needed

Help is sought with producing the occasional flyer/poster for HOPE activities.

Gain valuable work experience using your Journalism/Media skills.

The Environment needs YOU – Volunteer Today!

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

Queensland News

Environmental Defenders Office Queensland (EDO Qld) needs your help!

At the end of last year the Federal Government advised – without warning – they were withdrawing funding to all Environmental Defenders' Offices around Australia.

The withdrawal of funding guts the Environmental Defenders Office of Queensland's (EDO Qld's) ability to help landholders, individuals and community groups understand and act on their legal rights to protect Queensland's natural environment and communities. To make matters worse, there has recently been a winding back of existing environmental laws and Queensland's mining industry is booming.

Important laws that guarantee clean air, clean water, a safe climate, and biodiversity are being purposefully dismantled and community concern about the environment is high. There are over 30 proposed coal mines in Queensland and 30,000 proposed coal seam gas wells, as well as new and expanded ports on the Great Barrier Reef. Uranium mining is also now permitted.

Without EDOs, no free legal support is available for those that want to protect the environment.

Individuals seeking environmental justice will often be priced out of the legal system. **Without your urgent help, these services will not continue:**

- EDO Qld recently represented *Coast & Country Association of Queensland* in the **Alpha Coal mine case**. This major case (with 27 expert witnesses) addressed the adverse impacts of the potential Galilee Basin mine on groundwater, climate change and the broader economy.
- EDO Qld's **community legal advice line** runs every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5.15pm to 7.30pm. Queries spread across local, Queensland and national laws, and often relate to issues such as planning and development processes, pollution incidents and wildlife management.
- As part of a new series of **free legal information seminars**, EDO Qld delivers regular information seminars

known as LawJams that help to keep the community up-to-date with changes to environmental law and government policies.

- EDO Qld's '**Community Litigants Handbook**' and '**Mining and Coal Seam Gas Handbook**' are publications in strong demand. Many rural and urban clients find these handbooks of great benefit.
- EDO Qld advocate frequently on **urgent law reform** such as matters impacting the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests and islands and Queensland wildlife (such as koalas and flying foxes).
- EDO Qld has also run workshops in Toowoomba with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee and provided assistance to the Oakey Coal Alliance who is fighting the expansion of the Acland mine.

EDO Qld is as determined as ever to find a way to continue being a strong voice for the environment. But they need your support right now to help them fill this massive financial black hole.

Please consider giving a donation for one extremely important reason: without EDO Qld our current environmental laws will be severely weakened and dozens of grassroots communities will struggle to exercise their legal rights to challenge unwanted destruction of their local communities.

Donate to: www.givenow.com.au/edo and help to build a stronger, citizen-funded EDO Qld.



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www.peakstopoints.com.au

19 July – 3 August 2014

Peaks to Points Festival showcases the beauty in our backyard

Discover the beauty in greater Brisbane's backyard at the Peaks to Points Festival 2014, from Saturday 19 July to Sunday 3 August 2014. Experience amazing natural areas right at your doorstep through free events and hands-on activities from the 'peaks' - Flinders Peak near Ipswich - across the south side of the Brisbane River, to the 'points' of Moreton Bay.

The festival brings together community groups, local businesses, councils and environmental groups to celebrate greater Brisbane's 'wild side'. Through bush walks, canoeing, bird watching, tree plantings, workshops, bus tours and lots of other great eco-activities you can learn more about our wonderful natural environment, and how we can protect and enhance it.

The festival kicks off with Family Day at the Oxley Creek Common on Sunday 20 July 2014 (free entry). Take in the winter sun while enjoying live entertainment, children's activities, canoeing on Oxley Creek, displays, workshops and a selection of hot and cold food.

Visit: www.peakstopoints.com.au

The Peaks to Points Festival is presented by the Oxley Creek Catchment Association with major supporter the Brisbane City Council.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) [World Parks Congress](#) is a landmark global forum on protected areas held every ten years. It brings together the most influential people in parks and protected area management to set the direction and shape the global agenda for the decade ahead.

The IUCN World Parks Congress will be held at **Sydney Olympic Park, Australia, from 12 to 19 November 2014** and will attract 3,000 delegates from more than 150 nations

worldwide. Importantly however, it is not just a Congress for people working in parks, it's an event that attracts royals, presidents, business and indigenous leaders and the leaders of tomorrow – the world's youth. It is an opportunity for everyone who cares about the health of society and the health of the planet to get involved in the conservation planning for some of the most valuable places on earth – world parks!

Centred around the themes of Parks, People, Planet: Inspiring Solutions, the Congress provides a unique opportunity to bring about change not only today, or tomorrow, but for the decade ahead. The event will celebrate the success of protected areas, workshop the challenges faced for parks from Kakadu to Kruger and will strive to harness bold ideas and inspiring solutions that will help meet some of the most pressing challenges in the modern world such as the balance of sustainable development, climate change, food, water and health security.

Engagement and contributions from the broader community and diverse sectors is essential to the success of the World Parks Congress and the future planning for protected areas. Everyone who cares about the health of society, the planet and the economy should be involved. Together we can demonstrate the value of nature-based solutions to global challenges.

National News

Continental-scale governance failure will hasten loss of Australia's biodiversity

A newly published article in *Conservation Biology*, [Continental-Scale Governance Failure Will Hasten Loss of Australia's Biodiversity](#), expresses concern about the recent spate of substantial policy, legislative and management changes being made by three of six Australian state governments for exploitative uses of national parks — actions that could affect much of Australia and have significant negative effects on biodiversity.

Carrying Capacity Dashboard

As we begin to address global challenges such as climate change, peak oil and over-population it is becoming apparent that we must re-orientate our society towards lower energy availability. This means that in the

future, we will need to live in a world where our resources are produced and accounted for much closer to home. We will need to begin to live within the long term carrying capacity of our landscapes. A prototype Carrying Capacity Dashboard has been developed to estimate the productive capacity of the Australian landscape at various scales: national, state and regional.

World News

Seeing Past the Fracking Hype

(Toronto Globe and Mail, December 20, 2013)

For years, NASA has produced a composite photograph of North America at night. Taken by satellite, the photo shows huge patches of light marking New York, Los Angeles, and Toronto. Smaller patches mark cities like Denver, Seattle, and Calgary.

Recently something strange has appeared in this image. Another patch of light – larger than Chicago's – now glows in a sparsely populated region just south of the Canada-US border near Saskatchewan.

The light comes from thousands of gas flares at oil wells tapping North Dakota's Bakken shale. Farther south in Texas, a broad swath shaped like a scimitar marks the Eagle Ford shale play. In both places, drillers are mainly seeking oil. But because it's often too costly to capture the natural gas associated with the oil, they burn it.

This flaring is a staggering waste of energy and a significant source of carbon emissions. But waste and environmental damage get short shrift in the popular discussion of these energy plays. Instead, the buzz is about how new hydrofracking technologies that liberate oil from shale have changed our energy future. The US is on course to be the world's biggest oil producer and to achieve energy independence, the story goes. Shale plays around the planet mean we'll soon be awash in oil, and prices will plummet.

Full article at <http://www.homerdixon.com/2013/12/20/seeing-past-the-fracking-hype/>

Environment at a Glance 2013

The OECD report [Environment at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators](#) offers a comprehensive snapshot of key environmental trends in OECD member countries since the early 1990s. Issues addressed include climate change, air pollution, biodiversity, water resources, and waste. The report reveals big differences in environmental trends in different countries. It confirms that much more needs to be done to break the link between economic growth and environmental damage, and to safeguard the natural resource base on which economic activity and human welfare depends. Australia ranked second worst of all countries assessed in terms of greenhouse gas emission intensity per unit of GDP.

Some of the key findings overall are:

- Overall, **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** are still growing worldwide, with CO₂ predominant and the main driver of the overall trend. Since 1990, **energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions** have grown more slowly in OECD countries than they have worldwide. Today OECD countries account for less than half of world GHG emissions, but still emit far more CO₂ per capita; 10 tonnes per person compared with 4 tonnes per person in most other regions. Many OECD countries have decoupled their carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from GDP growth, though decoupling remains weak, and in many countries emissions have continued to rise.
- The **area of protected land** has grown in almost all OECD countries to reach some 11% of the total. However, these areas are not always representative of national biodiversity, nor sufficiently connected. Threats to **biodiversity** are increasing, particularly from land use change and infrastructure development; many natural ecosystems have been degraded and many **animal and plant species** in OECD countries are endangered. Threat levels are particularly high in countries with a high population density.
- **Municipal waste** generated in the OECD area increased by 19% in the 1990s, but this rise slowed in the early 2000s. Today a person living in the OECD area generates on average 530 kg of waste per year; this is 30 kg more than in 1990, but 30 kg less than in 2000. OECD countries increasingly divert waste from landfills and incinerators and feed it back

into the economy through recycling. Landfill nonetheless remains the major disposal method in many OECD countries.

The truth behind everyday chemicals

There are tens of thousands of chemicals in our air, water, and in the everyday products we use. They are largely unregulated and few are adequately tested for safety. Earth Focus takes an in-depth look at some of these chemicals and what measures could be taken to better protect people.

<http://www.linktv.org/video/9214/unsafe-the-truth-behind-everyday-chemicals>

Interesting Websites

Alternative Technology Association (ATA)

Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is a consumer organisation established in 1980. ATA advocates on behalf of its members who are building their own sustainable homes and who benefit from the experience of others in the ATA network. ATA publishes ReNew magazine which is read by 40,000 people across Australia. Visit: www.ata.org.au

The Australian Online Farmers Market

The Australian Online Farmers Market website is all about the promotion of local food. Your choice to buy locally also means you are contributing to strengthening your regional economy, supporting your local family farm, preserving the local landscape and fostering a sense of community. Membership to this website is free, see www.farmersonlinemarket.com

Clean up Australia

The clean up Australia idea was begun in 1989 by Ian Kiernan and Kim McKay. Ian's idea was to make a difference in his own backyard. This simple idea has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event, Clean Up Australia Day. Visit: www.cleanup.org.au

CSIRO Publishing

CSIRO Publishing - operates as an independent science and technology publisher with a global reputation for quality products and services. For books and magazines on non-toxic gardening go to www.publish.csiro.au. Also see www.csiro.au

Doctors for the Environment

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) is a voluntary organisation of medical doctors in all states and territories. DEA aims to utilise the skills of members of the medical profession to address the ill health resulting from damage to the natural environment at local, national and global levels. Visit: dea.org.au

Ecological Footprint Quiz

In recent years, there has been a growing concern about the consumption of various resources (both renewable and non-renewable) throughout the world and the amount of land required to support these resource demands. Based on a complex calculus of elements, this is referred to as an ecological "footprint". The Redefining Progress organization has created this very educational online quiz that allows individuals to learn how large their ecological footprint is, based on 15 questions about their personal lifestyle habits. After responding to these questions, visitors will be able to compare their ecological footprint to what other people use around the globe. Visit <http://www.myfootprint.org/>.

Ecospecifier

Ecospecifier is an online information service detailing more than 1000 environmentally-preferable products, materials, and resources, including plastics, paints and adhesives, carpets, and timber. Designed to help designers, builders, and homeowners, Ecospecifier can help reduce environmental impacts and create healthier and more productive living and working environments. Ecospecifier is a membership service, although a limited list of products is available in the public domain at www.ecospecifier.org

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water.

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