



Householders' Options to  
Protect the Environment Inc.  
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Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #3 — 27 March 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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. If you would like to discuss news items displayed or have letters for the editor please contact [Kerry Kruger](mailto:Kerry.Kruger).

### Hello

This month I am appealing for all your memories and knowledge from what you, your grandparents or great grandparents or great aunts uncles or friends used to do. I am compiling stories of what used to happen. We all know the hints on household cleaning etc. that abound today. But what did people do for other household and gardening jobs? For example, I can remember my grandfather using a scythe to cut the lawn or cut down large growth. But now you have to buy a brush cutter or similar. For all those implements / tips /how to... knowledge that has disappeared, I want information: the things that people used to use in the house and garden. I vaguely remember a story of what to do if you fell down a well to get rid of the dangerous gasses: something to do with throwing eucalypt leaves down. Please send me your stories.

*Kerry Kruger, Newsletter Editor*

### Date Claimer



Official release of *grevillea* 'Dorothy Gordon'. A function will be held at Myall Park Botanic Garden, 26 April

2014, noon to release this new grevillea selection. Luncheon available | All welcome | Join the event from 11:00am to 4:00pm. RSVP by 20 April 2014 | [myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com](mailto:myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com) | phone 07 4665 6705 |

### Calendar of events

#### MARCH

- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 29 [Earth Hour](#)

#### APRIL

- 6-13 [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 12-20 [Australian Heritage Week](#)
- 18 [International Day on Monuments and Sites](#)
- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 22 [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- 23 [Walk Safely to School Day](#)
- 26 [National Sorry Day](#)
- 29-1May [OZ Water' 14](#)

#### Advertisement



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

at

**Highfields Pioneer Village  
73 Wirraglen Rd, Highfields**

Animal Nursery, Draught Horses,  
Vintage Machinery, Butter Making,  
Village Market, Country Music,  
Blacksmith, Tinsmith, Silversmith,  
Food, Billy Tea & Damper,

**Phone: (07) 4696 6309**

[www.eastervintagefestival.com](http://www.eastervintagefestival.com)

## Office News Report 2014 #3 --- March 2014

Good morning folks,

Where does the time go! The busy schedule of monthly 'local' morning teas and evening public meetings; plus the production of a monthly 'national' e:news bulletin certainly keeps the committee and admin volunteers "on our toes". Thanks to all for your efforts and contributions, especially newcomers Lin Boyle who has written media releases and Charmaine Atkinson who has prepared articles for the newsletter. Also, thanks to David Shipp, our IT Advisor, for his regular computer system performance review and removal of unwanted spyware, malware and browsers. And, a special thanks to Terry Ryan for volunteering to take on the Vice-Presidents position.

Low attendances at the public meeting on 10 March and our rescheduled Ordinary Meeting of 16 March were disappointing to say the least. We need YOU – our members and supporters – to show your support of, and interest in HOPE's activities by actually attending these events.

Other matters of importance discussed by the office staff and the management committee are detailed below under their respective sub-headings.

### Equipment failure

Recently we had to replace our laser printer & scanner and computer screen, as well as 2 faulty power boards and an extension lead. These expenses have made a significant dint in our cash reserves.

**Monthly Morning teas** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 10am at the HOPE Office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

We extend an open invitation to anyone interested in "learning how to live more sustainably" or just to share experiences and knowledge about the environment to join us for a *cuppa*.

To register your interest in joining the kitchen conversation, please phone the HOPE office on 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

**Monthly Public Meetings** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 7.30pm at the Dr Price Room, Little St, Toowoomba

- 14 April Peter McQueen, SQIT – Toowoomba speaking on Organic Pest Management
- 12 May Various speakers Reviewing draft Qld Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy 2014-2024
- 9 June Shelley Purser, – QMDC Education Officer, speaking on Dirty Gloves program - mentor school students with gardening and projects that adhere to a Landcare ethos.
- 14 July Mark Copland, Social Justice Commission – Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba, speaking on Climate change, Coal Seam Gas, Faith and Social Justice.

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

We are still looking for speakers and/or topics for the August through to December meetings. Please contact the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 or [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) with your suggestions.

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

Miriam is keen to learn of your 'helpful hints' for the home and/or garden. Also, we'd like to hear your views on current environmental issues of interest or concern. Please take advantage of HOPE's Facebook as noted above.

**Website** – <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/>

Kerry, despite being recently off-sick for 3 weeks, has finished updating information and refreshing pages on our website. Please take the time to peruse the site. If you notice any anomalies/mistakes and/or have suggestions to improve the content, please send an email to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) at your earliest convenience.

### Membership

<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/>

Our current national membership stands at 543 members - most of which are passive, online subscribers.

We need YOU - our full and associate members - to help us promote HOPE and its activities to the wider Australian audience. Please consider passing on our e:news bulletins and/or other HOPE publications to family, friends and work colleagues.

## Volunteer

<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form/>

We're keen to increase our pool of volunteers locally, state-wide and nationally. Locally, we need assistance with media, publications, promotion and event support. State-wide and nationally, we need help with reviewing and commenting on draft government policies and strategies; as well as supporting our envNGO partners with their campaigns, projects, events and related activities. If you have some spare time, skills and expertise to share, please contact HOPE via the email address above.

## Financial support

<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.

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



## Special item for your consideration

### Everything you wanted to know about Climate Change and Agriculture!

What impact will a changing climate have on the food we grow and eat? How do our diets contribute to climate change? And how can food and farming be climate-smart? Now you can get all the **Big Facts on the links between climate change, agriculture and food security**. The new site features over 100 stunning infographics that illustrate the most up-to-date, thoroughly researched information on these topics.

Big Facts is an open-access resource. You can download and share the graphics with your friends and colleagues and use them in your presentations and reports. During the month of February, we will be posting regular updates and insights about the Big Facts on our [blog](#); join the conversation [here](#) and on [twitter](#).

The Big Facts project is led by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security ([CCAFS](#)). Learn more: <http://ccaafs.cgiar.org/bigfacts2014/>

So, dig in to learn about climate impacts on people, food security and food production; discover our options for adaptation and mitigation; and find out about the current state of policy and finance for agriculture and climate change. Zoom in to explore facts by region, and see how different parts of the world compare on critical issues like undernourishment, food waste, capacity to cope, and opportunities to mitigate.

**Cecilia Schubert**, Communications Assistant  
CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

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## Feature Article



In 2004, The Boomerang Alliance came to fruition. Its aim? A zero waste society. Their first goal was to reduce the amount and style of packaging, ideally beverage containers. The Boomerang Alliance have the support of several state and national environment groups including Greenpeace, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and the Sea Life Conservation Fund. This is by no means an exhaustive list of the 27 groups which are currently involved in this great initiative.

Did you know that Australians generate approximately 2 tonnes of waste per person? Only half of this is currently recycled. Australia had not had a national waste policy since 1992, until now.

A national electronic waste recycling program has also been one of the Boomerang Alliance's successful campaigns. An advertising campaign commenced by the beverage industry has stated that cash for containers is a tax. If you are interested in following this up with your local government representatives, click on the following link for some talking points:

<http://www.nodrinkcontainertax.org.au/>



There are several agencies working together in order to define, and further promote, current recycling policies. Some of these policies include a National Waste Policy, better landfill levies to improve the current landfill options, and federal economic support policies for more infrastructure. In 2010 a national summit was held and there were several priorities agreed to by all associated parties relating to recycling and possible ways forward. For further information relating to these priorities, please click on the following link:

<http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/national-recycling-initiative.html>

230 million. That is the number of items currently in landfill, or on their way to landfill. The Total Environment Centre led the way for a directed campaign for a national collection system. The landfill industry agreed to a collection rate of 80% by 2020, and the national government agreed on a 90% resource recovery rate by 2014. The electronics market was simply not ready for the amount of waste it would assist in generating when the public saw how much more 'economical' new television sets were. Unfortunately this lack of understanding has greatly increased the amount of landfill currently being seen on a daily basis.



Since 2004, Federal and State governments have discussed possibly nationally identified recycling schemes, but to no avail.



Coca Cola Amatil is one of the major companies assisting with recycling. Unfortunately for them, the rate of recycling by their product is considerably low. The Australian Packaging Covenant states that the national recycling rates for PET drink containers is approximately 27%, while the rates for glass containers is approximately 38%. South Australia however seems to lead the charge when it comes to recycling rates as their plastic recycling is 74% and their glass recycling rate is 84%.

If you would like to assist with any of the schemes mentioned here, or would like further information on recycling, please go to [www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au).

Phone – 02 9211 5022; Fax – 02 9211 5033  
Physical address – C/ TEC, Suite 2, 89 Jones St, Ultimo, NSW

*(Article prepared by Charmaine Atkinson for HOPE Australia)*

## Recipes for the Season

### Tomato Chutney



**You'll need:** 2 kilograms ripe tomatoes (or use canned tomatoes), 1 kilogram cooking apples, 500g onions, 625ml (2 ½ cups) malt or cider vinegar, 625g (2 ½ cups) sugar, 45g (1/4 cup) sultanas, 2 teaspoons salt, ½ teaspoon pepper, 1 teaspoon mustard powder, ½ teaspoon ginger, 10 cloves, ¼ teaspoon chilli powder (optional)

**Method:** Blanch tomatoes in boiling water. Remove skins and chop coarsely. Place in a large heavy based pan. Peel and core apples, cut into rough slices or quarters. Add to pan. Add peeled and chopped onions. Stir in vinegar, sugar, sultanas, salt, pepper, cloves and mustard. Bring to boil. Add ginger and chilli powder. Bring to boil again and then simmer without lid for 1 ½ hours or until very thick consistency. Pour into clean, hot jars. Seal. When cool, label with contents and date. Store in a cool dry place. Use within 6 months. Refrigerate after opening.

### Pear Jam

In winter the choice for jam making has been limited (compared with the abundance of fruit available in summer). But this pear jam recipe has been well received and enjoyed by all at the workshops:

Core, peel and slice 2 kilograms pears and 500 kilograms green apples (provides pectin and will help the jam to set). Place in saucepan with the juice and rind of 3 lemons. Simmer until tender. Add 2 kilograms sugar, dissolve, boil mixture rapidly until it gels when tested – about 15-20 minutes boiling time should be sufficient. Pour into sterile jars and seal ready for use.

Adapted from 'Fig Jam' recipe in e-booklet No. 74 *Ways With Fruit*. Price: \$12.00.

### Plum Jam:



Wash 1 kilogram plums, cut in half. Remove stones. Add 4 tabs water and juice and rind of three lemons to saucepan and boil until soft.

Mash with a spoon. Remove from heat. Add ¾ kilogram sugar; dissolve. Place back onto stove and simmer for approx.15-20 minutes. Test for thickness by placing a teaspoon on a saucer, leave to cool. Check for thickness/consistency. Continue simmering until correct consistency. When ready pour into sterile jars, seal & label.

More jam recipes in e-booklet No. 74 *Ways With Fruit*.

The plum jam was the 'jam of the day' at a recent workshop as it was 'in season' and the most cost effective fruit for jam making. It was easy to make and absolutely yummy (I've been eating it on toast every morning since!). Everyone took home at least two sample pots each. Lots of people have commented how yummy it was and the colour a wonderful rich red-purple. I hope you enjoy the recipe!

For ginger-plum jam add approx 3 tablespoons freshly grated ginger with the plums.



From e-book No. 74 *Ways With Fruit*.

Also includes info and recipes for making syrups, cordials, other types of jams, preserves, pickling, glacé, mango chutneys, preserves, curds, butters, fruit cheese, freezing, candying, crystallizing, pickling. Interesting recipes include: rose petal jam, orange marmalade, fig and plum jams, lemon cordial, pickled zucchini.

Price: \$12.00 Download from 'The Shoppe' Publications page ([Click here](#))

Pam Marshall, The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe: [www.theshoppe.com.au](http://www.theshoppe.com.au)



News from the  
Alternative  
Technology  
Association

### Queensland scraps feed-in tariff



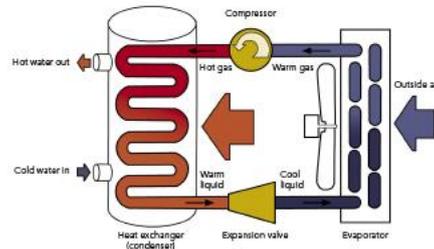
The ATA is disappointed that the Queensland Government has chosen to abolish its solar feed-in tariff from July 1. This will affect about 40,000 solar households and any new adopters in Queensland. The decision reflects the Newman Government's lack of understanding about the energy market. [Read the ATA's full statement.](#)

### Save water and save money



Household water saving actually saves people money as well as helping the environment, a new report by the ATA has found. The report looked at the economics of high-efficiency shower heads, toilets, dishwashers and washing machines, as well as rainwater tanks and water recirculators. To read it, [click here.](#)

### Heat pumps explained



Heat pumps are an energy-efficient technology to heat water in your home. They work by extracting heat from the air, concentrating it and transferring it into the water in a storage tank. Read the in-depth article about heat pumps in the latest issue of [Sanctuary Magazine.](#)

### Date Claimer

### Community Energy Congress, 16-17 June – Canberra, ACT



#### INTERESTED?

The 2014 Community Energy Congress aims to create a new approach to energy in Australia – to decarbonise, decentralise and democratise our energy system! Register your interest in attending.

#### EARLY BIRDS

Register NOW and receive a fantastic Early Bird discount!

#### LEADING THE WAY

Communities are leading the way in creating sustainable energy enterprises that increase local energy security, create regional community development opportunities.

Community-owned energy is the way of the future. The Community Energy Congress will be held on June 16-17 in Canberra. Check out the Congress' new website and list of speakers, just announced: [www.c4ce.net.au](http://www.c4ce.net.au)



<http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au/>

## Queensland News

### Brisbane Community Action

#### Network – G20 (BrisCAN–G20)

BrisCAN-G20 is network of groups and individuals concerned about the ongoing ecological destruction and social and economic and disparities perpetuated by G20 and the systems it represents.

We live and take action on Aboriginal land and support First Nations' struggles for land and culture.

Bris-CAN facilitates vibrant community-based action for an ecologically and socially just world. We foster peaceful collaborations for progressive and positive change locally and globally in the lead up to the G20 and beyond.

BrisCAN-G20 will be helping coordinate cross campaign collaboration on environmental and social justice, including first people's sovereignty, food sovereignty, the climate, mining and human rights. We invite all community groups and individuals to join us over the next year in responding to the G20 through collaborative education, media production, action planning, alternative forum development and more!

For more info and to get involved in BrisCAN-G20:

- Subscribe to our announcement list: <mailto:briscan-g20@lists.riseup.net>
- FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/briscan.g20>
- Website <http://briscan.net.au/>
- Contact: 0411 118 737

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## Queensland Conservation

### Council (QCC)

Queensland environment and conservation organisations support actions that lead to:

- A future safe climate,
- That restores healthy catchments and river systems,
- That protects and builds resilient natural environments
- Establishes a liveable and ecologically sustainable society

Further information about QCC's joint campaign program can be located at <http://qldconservation.org.au/>

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## National News

### State of the Climate

[The State of the Climate – 2014](#) is produced by CSIRO and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology. Data and analysis show further warming of the atmosphere and oceans in the Australian region. Air and ocean temperatures across Australia are now, on average, almost a degree Celsius warmer than they were in 1910, with most of the warming occurring since 1950. This warming has seen Australia experiencing more warm weather and extreme heat, and fewer cool extremes. There has been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of Australia.

## Conservation Volunteers

### Australia (CVA)

...welcomes people with a love of the outdoors and interest in the environment to get involved. Our volunteers include students, professionals, international visitors, retirees — in fact almost anybody can get involved. You don't need any prior skills or experience as we provide onsite training, just a reasonable level of health and fitness. Projects include activities such as planting trees, removing weeds, building or restoring tracks and trails, fencing, flora and fauna surveys, and of course helping out with Landcare projects! We offer single day activities and residential programs (a contribution is required towards the cost of meals and accommodation). Projects take place Australia-wide all year round — contact us for details of your nearest Conservation Volunteers Australia office! Further information <http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/>

## GM-free labelled products list

An increasing number of organisations and products are voluntarily displaying GM-free labelling. Check out our GM-free labelled products and tell us about new ones to add. Let's celebrate these organisations leading the way. [Read more >>](#)

## Fifth edition of Your Home –

### Australia's guide to environmentally sustainable homes

[This book](#) is now available. It has been produced by the Australian Government in partnership with the building and design industry to provide comprehensive, expert and independent advice to people aiming to build, buy or renovate a sustainable home.

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## Australian companies leading the way

[We Live Here](#) is a marketplace for clever and optimistic inventions. Here's some of their pick of some products that demonstrate the best of Australian ingenuity and thinking for the future.



## Make the switch to LED easy

Australian designed | Built for the Australian climate | Uses 80% less electricity on average | Simply unplug halogen and replace with LED | No heavy metals | Flicker free



## Toxin free toothpaste a reality

Australian Made | Sugar & preservative free | Organic Calendula to soothe gums | Organic natural flavouring | BPA free packaging



## Inspiring change through play

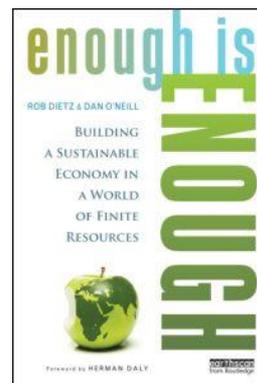
Australian company and design | Battery free fun | Alter the perceived value of materials | Upcycling | Carbon neutral

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## World News

### Climate Action in Megacities

The new C40 Cities report [Climate Action in Megacities](#) demonstrates a clear trend of expanding and accelerating climate action in the world's megacities. Climate actions, such as implementing rigorous energy efficiency regulations for buildings, instituting bus rapid transit lines or flood mapping efforts, aim to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and improve urban resilience to climate change.



### Enough is Enough – The Film!

Based on [Enough is Enough](#)\*, this new film lays out a visionary but realistic alternative to the perpetual pursuit of economic growth – an economy where the goal is

enough, not more. For more details and to view the film, [click here](#).

### Our World is Not for Sale

Born out of the Seattle mobilizations against WTO, since 2009 OWINFS opened a new strategic area of work on G20 and has been quite active developing counter-events and mobs, mainly trying to foster international involvement and new forms of global social movements' articulation, of course relying on the great dynamism of progressive groups in the country that has been hosting each summit.

...For the ones who want to know a little more about OWINFS G20 stream and the work we've done over the past 4-5 years, please find below a list of links you can glance at that I had prepared for folks in Russia in the lead up to the G20 Summit in 2013 in St-Petersburg.

G20 stuff on OWINFS website + Russia KounterSummit:

<http://ourworldisnotforsale.org/en/themes/3135>