



Householders' Options to  
Protect the Environment Inc.  
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens,  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD  
4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135;

Email: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

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

Facebook:

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

ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #4 — 20 April 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 the office or [Kerry Kruger](mailto:Kerry Kruger).

### Hello

There are some very interesting articles in this month's newsletter, or links to them. Shawn Dang, a new HOPE supporter, has written an informative analysis of some features of the Australian government's energy policy. The leaked report from the IPCC states that: 'Without further action, temperatures will increase by about 4 to 5C, compared with pre-industrial levels, it warns, a level that could reap devastating effects on the planet.' Edmund Burke is famous for his statement: 'The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.' Perhaps it is time for ordinary people to make submissions to <http://ewp.industry.gov.au/submissions> to let the Australian Government know the extent of our concern about the trends that seem to be evident in their policies.

*Kerry Kruger, Newsletter Editor*

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

— [Ansel Adams](#)

### Calendar of events

#### APRIL

- 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](#)

#### MAY

- 10-11 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- 12 **Public Meeting – draft Qld Waste Strategy 2014-2024, Toowoomba**
- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 [World Turtle Day](#)
- 27-3Jun [National Reconciliation Week](#)

#### JUNE

- 4 **Celebrating Our Environment Expo -- USQ, Toowoomba**
- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

### Date Claimer

**"CELEBRATING OUR ENVIRONMENT"  
EXPO**

Wednesday, 4 June 2014 | 10am to 4pm  
University of Southern Queensland  
West Street, Toowoomba

**Admission: FREE!**



**Featuring:**

- **Information displays** – environment/conservation, landcare, animal welfare, Reverse Garbage
- **Trade exhibits** – solar electricity, organic fruit & veges, soaps
- **Demonstrations (outside on quadrangle)** – chook tractor, worm farm, composting, square foot/container gardening, "qwikbed"

❖ **FREE bicycle "turn up" & valet parking service**

❖ **Official opening at 11am**

❖ **Speakers program (Room R113, from 12 noon)**

❖ **Multi-draw raffle ... lots of prizes!!**

❖ **Food & drink available**

Hosted by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

Sponsors:



## Office News Report

Hello there,

The autumn weather is great and the office is running smoothly. Thanks to all for your many and varied contributions.

On 29 March, I attended the Friends of South-East Queensland (FoSEQ) AGM and dinner in Brisbane. And, much to my surprise, I was awarded a "Golden Friend of SEQ" certificate in recognition of HOPE's long service to the group.

Our public meeting on Monday 14 April was hugely successful with some 40 visitors in attendance. A big and sincere thanks to our guest speaker Mr Peter Macqueen from Toowoomba TAFE Horticulture who spoke on organic pest management.

The next free public meeting will be on Monday 12 May and features a presentation on the draft *Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy for Queensland (2014 - 2024)*. Speakers will include someone from the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection; Toowoomba Regional Council and the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Please RSVP to ph 4639 21325 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

## Celebrating Our Environment Expo

Our major event for the year is the one day *Celebrating Our Environment Expo* being held on Wednesday 4 June at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ, West St, Toowoomba). So far, we have bookings for 17 information displays, 5 trade exhibits and 7 demonstration activities. We are also staging an afternoon speakers program; and considering a photographic competition for secondary school students. Special guests at the Expo included Jerry Coleby-Williams, a presenter on ABC's Gardening Australia program; and Fiona Armstrong from Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA).

A fund-raising multi-draw raffle is also being organised. So far we have over \$700 in donated prizes. Please contact the office if you too would like to contribute a prize or voucher to the raffle.

Lastly, we need a pool of approx. 20 volunteers to help out on the day. If you can spare half a day or so, please register your availability with the office asap so that tasks can be allocated.

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

## Kitchen conversations

In an effort to connect more regularly with our 'local' HOPE members and friends, we have started a monthly morning tea program.

The morning teas are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, starting around 10am at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

## HOPE reference library

HOPE has a good collection of library reference material – both hard-copy (books, magazines, reports, DVDs) and electronic reports and newsletters. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, energy, Govt, landcare/NRM, MDB, mining, pest plants and animals, sustainable housing, waste and water. Hard-copy material is available from office; and electronic material is available by email. If you are chasing something specific, why not give us a call on 07 4639 2135 or send an email request to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

By the way, we have a number of outstanding loans at present. Please return materials promptly to us at HOPE Office, PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350 or drop them off at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba.

**"CELEBRATING OUR ENVIRONMENT"  
EXPO**

Wednesday, 4 June 2014 | 10am to 4pm  
University of Southern Queensland  
West Street, Toowoomba

**Admission: FREE!**



**Featuring:**

- **Information displays** – environment/conservation, landcare, animal welfare, Reverse Garbage
- **Trade exhibits** – solar electricity, organic fruit & veges, soaps
- **Demonstrations (outside on quadrangle)** – chook tractor, worm farm, composting, square foot/container gardening, "Qwikbed"

❖ **FREE bicycle "turn up" & valet parking service**  
❖ **Official opening at 11am**  
❖ **Speakers program (Room R113, from 12 noon)**  
❖ **Multi-draw raffle ... lots of prizes!!**  
❖ **Food & drink available**

Hosted by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

Sponsors:



## E-Letters to the Editor

(The items below have been summarised for inclusion in this newsletter.)

Dear Friends of the Environment,



Sustainable House Day, now managed by EnviroShop Sustainability Solutions (<http://www.enviroshop.com.au/>) is being held on 7 – 14 September 2014.

We invite your group to support this event by:

- locating suitable housing stock in your community;
- ask householders to open these houses for viewing by the general public;
- register your SHD event; and
- promote your SHD event locally.

Further information on Sustainable House Day 2014 can be found on the new website: <http://www.sustainablehouseday.com>. You can also join the discussion on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Yours truly,

Jodie North, SHD Event Manager, ph 1300 430 430, mobile: 0430 705 958 or email: [Jodie.north@envirogroup.com.au](mailto:Jodie.north@envirogroup.com.au).

Dear Editor,



I am trying to raise awareness of extreme poverty, and money for bettering education in East Timor.

I am doing a [12 part challenge](#) to raise as much awareness towards both of these issues, through [Live Below the Line](#). I will be doing things such as going without talking for a week, going without showering, living on \$1 a day, and going for 72 hours without food. Some of these things will be really difficult, (anyone who's met me will know how difficult it will be for me to not talk!)

I really hope to raise so much awareness, and money to help with educating these disadvantaged people, and I hope that you can help me.

Warm regards,

Tiarna Anderson, a student at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba  
[u1038725@umail.usq.edu.au](mailto:u1038725@umail.usq.edu.au)

Dear Editor,



My name is Kelly O'Shanassy and I am the new CEO of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF).

Nature is a wonderful thing. It's beautiful and valuable in its own right. It's also our life support system — providing food, water, air and resources to every person on the planet. It supports every business, every job, everyone.

Yet nature is under more pressure than ever before and our future wellbeing is at risk.  
**It doesn't have to be that way.**

My vision for ACF can be found at <http://www.action.org.au/news/bold-new-vision-australia>.

Let's start turning our knowledge into action, by telling our MPs we won't let the big polluters hijack our future - <http://acf.action.org.au/page/speakout/australia-ns-for-coal-campaign>

Kelly O'Shanassy  
CEO, Australian Conservation Foundation

## Feature Articles

### The Inadequate Energy Strategy

By Shawn Dang, HOPE supporter

The government's industry department is asking for a new round of submissions (<http://ewp.industry.gov.au/submissions>) in response to its latest issues paper, to develop the 2014 Energy White Paper.

To my best knowledge, a government makes its energy policies with the aim of improving the nation's efficiency of energy production and energy use, that is, to produce a reasonable amount of energy with minimal cost and to make the most use of every single unit of energy.

And like an individual person, a country does not think only have concerns of today but also of tomorrow, and not only its own but also the neighbourhood and the community. Energy strategies should be developed to increase energy sustainability in this global, multi-player game Australia is playing with other countries.

In the article "Out with the old, in with the new (sort of)", written by Alan Pears and published on the journal WME in March 2014, it is introduced that "The International Energy Agency recommends countries adopt energy efficiency, limit construction and use of coal-fired power stations, minimise methane emissions from oil and gas production, and accelerate phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies", and "the World Bank recommends introducing a robust carbon price, removing fossil fuel subsidies, and encouraging adoption of clean energy."

However to my and the author's disappointment, the new Australian government, in its issues paper, seems to be doing the opposite, by "limiting growth of renewable energy and supporting increased fossil fuel production". While focusing on reduction of the financial cost of energy suppliers, and hopefully, of the buyers, this issues paper lacks a blueprint of how energy-related environmental concerns are dealt with.

While the new government proposed the Direct Action plan to control greenhouse gas emission, nothing has been shown in the issues paper. It might be explained that as the "centerpiece" of the plan, the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is put under the Environment Department's charge, and this issues paper under the charge of the Energy Department may not want to meddle with that.

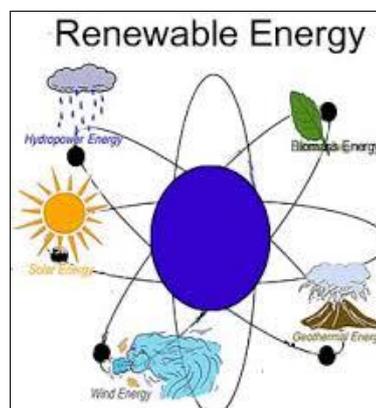
But it is just obvious the issue needs the cooperation between the two departments, and both departments should clarify their roles in such an issue when making their own plans.

The 2003–2013 emissions chart by sector shows that electricity and other stationary energy sectors contribute to nearly half of the total emission, more than any other sector. This strongly suggests that the Energy Department has to take its responsibility in such issues.

The same argument applies to the Renewable Energy Target (RET), which also falls under the Environment Department's charge. Obviously the Energy Department should take its part in working it out. RET is now under review by the government, which I hope, will survive to meet its goal of making 20 per cent of Australia's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020. It may need reform to work properly, but not to become mute.

When I skimmed through some of the submissions I see the energy industries worry about keeping competitive if they receive pressures coming from the environmental concerns, while their overseas competitors are exempt from such pressures. Alan Pears has made his good point against such statements – when Australia's major fuel customers may put more emphasis on environment issues and pursue tougher strategies when purchasing energy overseas, how can you sell your product at the price you want?

While some people may address financial cost and production efficiency, I wish more submissions will show up to express people's concerns of environment issues related to energy industries; of reducing emission; and of clean and renewable energy. These concerns need to be adequately represented to give a whole picture to policy makers.



## Knowing plastics in your house

In our houses there are all kinds of plastic items. You may wonder how to dispose or reuse them once they have finished their mission or just got broken. Well, let us look into what materials they are made of before deciding where they go.



Usually there is a plastic recycling code on each of the plastic bottles, jars or packages. It is a triangle with a number in the centre, indicating what material the plastic is made of.

If you see the number 1, or letters PET, that means the item is made of polyethylene terephthalate. You typically see this symbol on plastic bottles for water, soft drinks and fruit juice, as well as food jars for e.g. honey and peanut butter. Cosmetic and medicine containers may also be in this category. They can usually go to the recycling bin, which in Queensland is the yellow-lid bin accepted by your council's kerbside collection system. Be cautious if you want to reuse them to store food or drinks. The PET plastic containers are designed for single use only. After a long-term repeated use you may end up eating endocrine disruptors, phthalates and antimony, which are harmful above a certain level.

If you see the number 2 or letters HDPE, the item is made of high density polyethylene. Usually non-transparent milk jugs, shampoo or detergent bottles and plastic ladders are in this category. They can also go to the recycling bin with peace of mind. They are considered to be safe if you want to reuse them to store food or drinks.



If you see the number 3 or letters PVC, the item is made of polyvinyl chloride. This category includes garden

hoses, cable sheathing, blister packs, window frames, blister packs and blood bags, though not all of them are clearly labelled. Beware this material is nicknamed the Poison Plastic, because it contains many dangerous toxins. You should avoid frequent, close contact to

them and never reuse them for food wrapping. Fortunately this category is also accepted in the recycling bin at your kerb.

Number 4 in the triangle, or letters LDPE, means the item is made of low density polyethylene. This category includes heavy duty bags, garbage bags, dry-cleaning bags, bread bags and squeezable bottles. This category is considered to be safe, so no worry if you want to reuse them for food storage. They are also accepted in the recycling bin.

Number 5, or the letters PP, refers to polypropylene as the material of the plastics. This material is usually seen on medicine bottles, cereal liners, ice-cream containers, packing tape, potato chip bags, straws, take-away food containers and lunch boxes – if they are plastic. This category is considered to be safe as well. Once cleaned they are welcomed by the recycling bin, but feel free if you come up with any idea of reusing them!

If you see number 6 please be careful. Mostly the coding letters are PS, meaning the plastic is made of polystyrene and accepted into the recycling bin. Occasionally the coding letters are EPS, meaning the plastic is made of expanded polystyrene and not allowed into the recycling bin, though it might be accepted by some private recyclers. This category includes CD cases, plastic cutlery, foam packages, yoghurt or butter containers and egg cartons. This category of plastics is considered unsafe and should be avoided from long-term close contact. It may leach styrene, which is suspected a possible human carcinogen and a hormone disruptor. Please be cautious if you want to reuse them, and avoid keeping a box of butter too long in your house.

Finally there is a number 7, or a mark as "OTHER", which means the plastic item is made from materials other than the above six categories. Some may be marked with "PC", which means the material is polycarbonate. Other materials in this category include acrylic and nylon. Baby bottles, water cooler bottles, and some car parts may fall within this category. If a plastic item is marked by number 7, it cannot go to the recycling bin. To be cautious, please do not reuse it to store food or drinks, or for any other use in close contact to human body.

Please beware that there are exceptions which fall in the categories 1 to 6 but are not allowed into the recycling bin. Plastic bags may be either category 2 or 4, and soft food wraps,

including cling wraps, may be either category 3 or 4. They can jam the recycling machine in the sorting process and thus stop the facility from working. Therefore please do not put them into the yellow-lid bin at your house. Try reusing plastic bags, or hand them in to your local supermarkets – there are designated collection bins for them.

The above plastic recycling codes are universal internationally. However the recycling policies may vary across states and countries and may change over time. Please contact the local council for their recycling policies of your specific interest.

*(Article written by Shawn Dang for HOPE Australia)*

### Advertisement



### Verity Soaps

What started as a home hobby around 11 years ago became a topic of diligent study and research for Rose Smit, founder of Verity Soaps.

Always having an awareness of the environment and a liking for more natural living, Verity (meaning Truth) is the realization of a desire to do more for one's body than to just make it look good.

"Food for the skin" is what our line of soaps truly are, and we take pride and care in the making of a product that we believe can add to one's quality of life, even if it's just a little.

Verity Soaps are made in small batches to ensure the quality is kept. The mixture is not boiled at a high temperature in the manufacturing process which also allows the vitamins and minerals that the oils, botanical and essential oils have to offer are kept in each and every single bar.

Rose Smit, mob 0448 619 074  
<https://www.facebook.com/veritysoaps>

## Queensland News

### Regenerative Land Planning workshop, 30 May – 1 June, Cunningham Hall, Warwick, Qld

Inside Outside Management together with Condamine Headwaters Landcare are pleased to bring Darren Doherty, a leader in regenerative land planning, to Warwick for a 3 day interactive workshop – 30, 31 May and 1 June at Cunningham Hall.

First time in Southern Qld this is a terrific opportunity for anyone wanting to improve the productivity of their property – by utilising the natural elements and good planning techniques. Darren brings to us a wealth of practical ideas that create a robust planning process for both established and new properties, large or small. [www.Regarians.org](http://www.Regarians.org)

For further information about the workshop or to register your interest, please contact Helen Lewis on 0418 785 285.

## National News

### 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.

Further information on GM-free labelled products at:  
<http://www.geneethics.org/campaigns/display/9>

### Fracking the future paper

In the paper [Fracking the future](#), The Australia Institute look at the economic claims and the health and environmental risks of coal seam gas (CSG) extraction, concluding that while the economic benefits are likely to be relatively small, a lot more work needs to be done to assess the health and environmental risks.

*And now for a touch of satire:*

"Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain, for strip-mined mountain's majesty above the asphalt plain. America, America, man sheds his waste on thee, And hides the pines with billboard signs, from sea to oily sea." — George Carlin

## World News

### [WMO Statement on the status of the global climate in 2013](#)

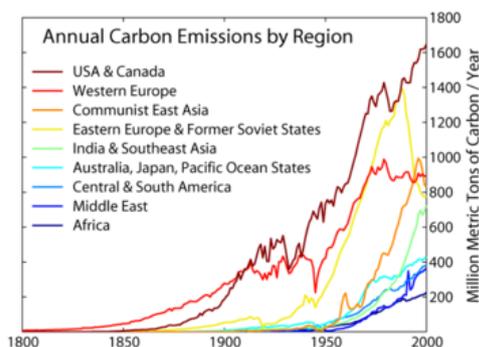
The [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\) Statement on the Status of the Global Climate in 2013](#) provides a snapshot of global and regional trends in weather and climate over the past year and highlights some of the year's most significant extreme events.

### [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) Working Group II and III reports](#)

The [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC, and review is an essential part of the IPCC process to ensure an objective and complete assessment of current information. Since its inception in 1988 the IPCC has prepared four multivolume assessment reports, and is in the process of finalising the [Fifth Assessment Report \(AR5\)](#). Two further AR5 reports have been released – [Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability](#) and [Mitigation of Climate Change](#) – following on from [The Physical Science Basis](#) report last year. The final AR5 Synthesis Report will be considered later this year.

### [Trends in global CO2 emissions: 2013 report](#)

The [Trends in global CO2 emissions: 2013 report](#) finds that global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) reached a new record in 2012, but the increase in global CO2 emissions in that year slowed down to less than half the average annual increase over the last decade. The report authors conclude that this development signals a shift towards less fossil-fuel-intensive activities, more use of renewable energy and increased energy saving.



### **New Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment Report 2014**

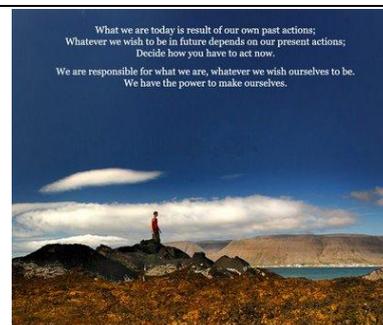
To reach the international target to keep the temperature increase below two degrees Celsius and avoid drastic climate change consequences, considerable climate finance actions must be taken. Among these international climate finance requirements global Investments in Renewable Energy are key to make the transformation to a green economy.

The Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance (the Centre), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Bloomberg New Energy Finance therefore jointly analyse the yearly global investment volumes in the “Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investments” Report, the newest edition of which has just been released and is available for download on the Centre's website: [www.fs-unep-centre.org](http://www.fs-unep-centre.org). The new edition of this authoritative annual report tells the story of the latest developments, signs and signals in the financing of renewable power and fuels. Although total investment in Renewable energies fell in 2013 by 14% to USD 214billion worldwide renewable energy excluding large hydro made up 43, 6% of the new power capacity added in all technologies in 2013 and raised its share of total generation worldwide to 8.5% from 7.8%. Global energy-related CO2 emissions would have been some 1.2 billion tonnes higher but for this contribution.

Download now at:

<http://fs-unep-centre.org/publications/gtr-2014>

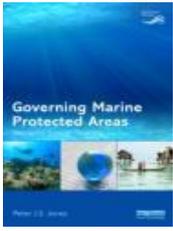
Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or



What we are today is result of our own past actions;  
Whatever we wish to be in future depends on our present actions;  
Decide how you have to act now.  
We are responsible for what we are, whatever we wish ourselves to be.  
We have the power to make ourselves.

‘Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.’ — Margaret Mead

## Resources



### **Governing Marine Protected Areas Resilience through Diversity**

By Peter J.S. Jones

[eBook](#) | [View Inside this Book](#) |

### **Also for your reference**

In two recent *ECOS* articles, ecologist Tim Low writes movingly on how biodiversity researchers are [‘too busy to grieve’](#) the loss of species, while elsewhere another ecologist, Angela Sanders, writes about [some successes](#) in the visionary Gondwana Link connectivity project that give hope for future restoration efforts.

One of Australia’s leading climate scientists, [John Church](#), outlines what scientists know about sea level change, and humanity’s adaptation options. *ECOS* also looks at the phenomenon of the [‘superbug’](#) and how these invisible enemies are infiltrating the food chain (it’s not just through hospitals!).

And for International Women’s Day in March, we interviewed women leaders from two different but equally important domains of sustainability, [Helen Cleugh](#) and [Victoria Marles](#).

If you are not yet an *ECOS* Contents Alert subscriber or know someone who would like to subscribe, visit our [website](#) to find out more.

From Mary-Lou Considine, Editor, *ECOS*

### **HOPE reference library**

HOPE has a good collection of library reference material – both hard-copy (books, magazines, reports, DVDs) and electronic reports and newsletters. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, energy, Govt, landcare/NRM, MDB, mining, pest plants and animals, sustainable housing, waste and water. Hard-copy material is available from office; and electronic material is available by email. If you are chasing something specific, why not give us a call on 07 4639 2135 or email to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

‘The ultimate test of man’s (*sic*) conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.’ – Gaylord Nelson

### **Volunteers needed**

HOPE is looking for extra volunteers who can help in the following areas:

--- Admin assistance; literature review and follow-up internet research; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.