



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2016 #08 --- 01 August 2016

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.

Editorial

Welcome,

This edition contains a special report from the President (page 3). It is important for you to read, and take on board, the extent of HOPE's activities. Check out the Queensland News article on Fire Ants (pages 5-6). It makes for very interesting reading. And, the extensive array of Helpful Hints on pages 8-9. Most of you will be "doing" these – but you might find something extra.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 213, email office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

Calendar of Events

Search the [national environmental events calendar](#) and/or [national community calendar](#) for any events that might interest you.

August

- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 12 [International Youth Day](#)
- 13-21 [National Science Week](#)
- 14 **HOPE information display at Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival**
- 17 **HOPE information display at U3A Toowoomba's Seniors Expo**
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 22-28 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

September

- [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 5-11 [National Landcare Week](#)
- 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 10 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting**
- 11 [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 11 [National Bilby Day](#)
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- dd [World Parks Day](#) - Date to be confirmed
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 22 [World Maritime Day](#)

Office News Report --- August 2016

Another topsy-turvy and busy month or so for the HOPE office with -

- the cancellation of the Logan Eco Action Festival (5/6) due to very wet weather → several cartons of Green Harvest Organic Catalogues were subsequently distributed to libraries and other community facilities throughout the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) area;
- the receipt of \$1,056 grant from the Federal Government to purchase 30 volunteer shirts;
- issued an internal e: appeal for office stationery;
- the rescheduling of our quarterly Ordinary Meeting from 11 June to 15 June as most of the executive and admin support staff were initially unavailable due to sickness, work and/or family commitments;
- a major "thinning out" of non-essential library resources → with the bulk of the reference books and magazines donated to the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre prison library;
- knock back of our application for new and replacement office computers, furniture and equipment → a fresh application to be submitted by 31 August;
- purchased MS Office 2016 (\$265) and a D-Link modem (\$88) from Officeworks (Toowoomba);
- engaged Neil Sciffer, Computer Troubleshooting (Toowoomba) to sort out the Telstra Bigpond internet connection, install the modem and reconfigure Outlook to properly receive/send emails from Telstra (fondrus@bidpond.net.au) and 1300WebPro (office@hopeaustralia.org.au) (1) – our website host.
- submitted several funding applications to undertake Landcare and Renewable Energy projects

And, we've also been busy preparing for the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (14 Aug), USQ's National Student Volunteer Week (10 Aug) and U3A Seniors Expo (17 Aug).

Donation of plants required for Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (TLCF)

HOPE has had an environmental information display at the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival every year since the event's inception. In recent years, we have had to pay a site fee and this year's fee is \$100. We propose to offset this cost by selling pot plants to festival visitors. We therefore ask for your support through the donation of a pot plant or two for sale at the event. Please drop off plants to the HOPE office at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba by 12 August at the latest - as the TLCF event is on Sunday, 14 August at Queens Park, Toowoomba.

Books & magazines appeal – The Southern Queensland Correctional Centre (SQCC), located in Gatton, is seeking donations of reading material for their library. HOPE has offered to assist SQCC by asking our members and supporters to donate novels, reference books, Australian/National Geographic magazines, Health and Lifestyle books/magazines, Reader's Digest and Gardening/Horticulture book/magazines. If you can assist with this appeal, please drop off your unwanted books & magazines to the HOPE office at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba.

We desperately need more **ACTIVE** members and volunteers to maintain our level of activity. So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please contact the HOPE office.

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

Report on HOPE's display at Toowoomba Camelia Show and Garden Expo, 16-17 July 2016



HOPE member Steve Gribble with keen visitors

In spite of the un-appealing wintery weather over the weekend, crowd attendance was good – with many folk visiting our information display. A good amount of 'gardening' literature was taken; and the enquiry level was pleasing.

Thanks to Donna Hay (one of the event coordinating team) for providing us with a free indoor site.

Thanks to Green Harvest for providing 4 books on "Growing easy herbs: for beauty, fragrance and flavour" by Penny Woodward.

And lastly, thanks to Steve Gribble and Mary Ondrus for helping to staff the display over the weekend.

Much appreciated.

What does HOPE do?

A special report from Frank Ondrus, the President of Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

I am often asked what does Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) actually do? The short answer is LOTS!! Let me explain.

HOPE is a national community based not-for-profit environment organisation promoting sustainable living practices as per our Charter (http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/uploads/media/Brochure_HOPE_Charter_2012_07_.pdf).

As we are un-funded, the management committee has pursued a policy of forming strategic partnerships/alliances with organisations at the local, state and national levels (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances-ngos/>) so as to access their expertise and resources – as well as to cooperate on key issues such as protecting the EPBC Act and the introduction of State-based Container Deposit Schemes.

We also have formed several business alliances (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnerships-businesses/>) to assist us in furthering HOPE's aims.

On the administration front, the office spends a lot of time:

- promoting HOPE and its activities;
- pursuing corporate sponsorship;
- membership recruitment; and
- investigating grant opportunities for equipment and projects.

List of current funding applications pending:

- GCBF – Project funding to host 6 or 7 Energy Efficiency/Going Solar seminars
- Cannon Australia – for a donation of a new camera and cam recorder
- Australian Ethical Investments – Project funding to stage 3 workshops on Creating Wildlife Habitats on Your Property
- Toowoomba Regional Council – Project funding to stage an extra 3 workshops on Creating Wildlife Habitats on Your Property
- GCBF – Funding application for new and replacement office computers and furniture; and other display equipment

Locally, that is – in Toowoomba where our head office is located, we undertake a variety of outreach activities such as providing information displays for community events; holding community forums on a variety of subjects; attending NGO and government meetings; and making submissions on relevant environmental issues.

State-wide (Qld), we continue to support our colleagues in the environment sector - principally through our membership with Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWALC).

HOPE has made submissions to the Queensland State Government's discussion papers:

- Advancing Climate Action in Queensland
- Qld Renewable Energy Expert Panel
- QPC re Solar Feed-in Tariff Pricing Inquiry

We are also currently reviewing the following Queensland State Government documents:

- Qld Weed and Pest Strategy
- Qld Biosecurity Act 2014

Nationally, our priority interests are in supporting the work of the Places You Love Alliance and Lock the Gate Alliance.

Other national issues of interest to HOPE are:

- Developing a national food plan in conjunction with strong policies to protect strategic cropping land vs the overwhelming spread and impact of coal mining and CSG mining on our communities, agriculture and environment; and
- Rehabilitation of abandoned mines.

Internationally, we have several partnerships who supply us with information on issues such curbing the spread of nuclear weapon; and the elimination of 'persistent organic pollutants'.

In conclusion, we need your help to maintain this high level of activity. So, please contact the HOPE office to volunteer some of your time.

We also need your financial support to help cover our annual operating costs of approximately \$20,500.

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. Please send your donation to the HOPE office or pledge online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>.

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

Feature Articles

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY - www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au

If the spate of BBC television programming has been anything to go by, archaeology and architecture continue a resurgence in popularity with programs such as *Who's Been Sleeping in Your House?*, *Restoration Home*, and *Grand Designs Australia*. Unfortunately, these programs only touch lightly on the not-for-profit Australian Garden History Society's first objective, to *promote knowledge and research, encouraging appreciation and concern for our parks, gardens and cultural landscapes as part of Australia's heritage*.

The Australian Garden History Society was formed in 1980 to bring together people from diverse backgrounds with an interest in the various aspects of garden history, including horticulture, landscape design, landscape architecture and related subjects. Its primary concern is to promote interest in, research into and the systematic identification, recording and restoration of historic gardens and cultural landscapes.

AGHS is a farsighted nationwide organisation with active branches in each state and some regional areas, all run by enthusiastic volunteers. It focusses on several key objectives and engages in a number of significant ongoing projects. This commitment is demonstrated through a number of projects which engage the wider community, including its important role in advocacy – providing a link between community and government at mostly local and state level, providing or supporting others' submissions concerning potential impacts on important publicly accessible landscapes including parks and gardens, significant historic trees and avenues, supporting the heritage listing and protection of cultural landscapes.

State and regional branches actively research their neighbourhoods and work to ensure significant gardens and parks are celebrated, better understood and included on local statutory registers in each state. The Society itself works with other affiliate organisations including the National Trust of Australia, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), the Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS) and government heritage agencies in each state.

The Society's Kindred Spirits Fund fosters research and publications with examples such as the refereed papers which make up *Studies in Australian Garden History*, recently retitled *Gardens + Environment*. So far it comprises 3 volumes of in-depth research on a range of themes, from forestry, water-management and the management of gardens with history. A number of important publications documenting our relationship with the Australian landscape and gardening have also been supported by AGHS, including the soon to be released *Planting Dreams: Shaping Australia Gardens (2016)*, *Gardens of History and Imagination (2016)*, *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens (2002)*, *Planting the Nation, Australian gardens and landscapes 1890 – 1914 (2001)*, and *Gardenesque, A Celebration of Australian Gardening (2004)*.

Practical conservation is a key objective of AGHS too, and it has assisted practical conservation of important historic gardens across Australia through working bees, financial contributions and obtaining grants for works. Society members are a vibrant, energetic mix of the community – from hands-on 'dirty' gardeners, to academics, nursery owners and professionals - who enjoy a busy social program of garden visits and functions, special guided bus tours, working bees and hands-on demonstrations, seminars and lectures by a range of passionate speakers and highly enjoyable, stimulating annual conferences. These conferences offer a vital opportunity to hear lectures on current research by leading academics, recent conservation and management challenges and achievements and stimulate discussion and debate: many inspiring.

If you think that uncovering a lost garden border, restoring a fountain, replanting an old orchard or discovering photographs of a previously unknown garden can't possibly be as exciting as viewing the final walk through of a newly restored house on the other side of the world, don't take our word for it: come and see for yourself!

For further information, visit www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au or call 1800 678 446

HOPE's Pledge facility - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

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Queensland News

Fire Ant Fiasco

By Dr Pam Swepson, www.swepson.com.au

Fire ants are an aggressive and dangerous super-pest; capable of infesting much of the planet. They have never been eradicated from any country they have invaded. They will cause serious damage to our environment, agriculture and other industries and our out-doors lifestyle.

Fire ants were first detected around Brisbane in 2001. They had probably been there for ten years by then. Fire ant experts from the USA said the infestation was as bad as anything they had seen in the badly infested states of southern USA.

In 2001, with funds from the Commonwealth and other States and Territories, the Queensland Government mounted the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. The Queensland Government of both political persuasions has now spent more than \$350m of public money on hundreds of staff and thousands of tonnes of bait in a failed attempt to eradicate fire ants. Fire ants now infest an arc of country that spreads from Redlands on the Bay through Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan and into the Scenic Rim, the Gold Coast and the Lockyer Valley. The infestation is now ten times bigger than it was in 2001 and fire ants are re-infesting suburbs that the State government had declared fire ant free.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/07/08/fire-ants-are-coming-back/>

The fiasco of the Fire Ant Program is an all too familiar story of politicians ignoring scientific advice, of incompetent management, of covering-up the facts of the inevitable disaster and then dumping the whole mess back onto the public that has already paid for an eradication program.

When the US experts saw the infestation in south-east Queensland they said the government had an outside chance of eradicating them, if, with great urgency, the whole infestation (about 28,000ha then) was baited quickly and efficiently by air and if the government implemented strict movement controls ('aggressive containment' they called it) to prevent people carelessly or accidentally moving fire ants in loads of soil or mulch or pot plants – the main cause of fire ants spreading.

The Minister responsible for the fire ant program in 2001 was ALP Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, Henry Palaszczuk. He ignored the advice of the fire ant experts. Unemployment rates in Queensland were very high in 2001. The Minister decided to spend the significant amount of money the Commonwealth government would contribute to a fire ant program to create a slow, cumbersome workforce of four hundred fire ant field assistants to look for and treat fire ant nests. And he allowed residents and businesses to manage their own risk of spreading fire ants. The ground force took two years to complete the first round of treatment and a couple of dozen biosecurity inspectors and a few road signs could not stop the continuing spread of fire ants.

Managing a large scale project with a blue collar workforce was beyond the capability of managers from the Department of Primary Industries. But they were compliant with the Ministers' decisions and produced progress reports that overstated the progress of the program and under-reported the serious problems threatening the program. An independent review of the capability of Biosecurity Queensland in 2015, the division of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (previously DPI&F) then responsible for the fire ant program, found that it 'does not have the capability to implement the changes required to meet the needs of the future and address current needs.' No wonder fire ants kept spreading.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/06/07/biosecurity-queensland-incapable-now-and-in-the-future/>

A change of government to the LNP in 2013 made no difference to the fire ant program. While promising to 'beef-up' spending on biosecurity before the election, incoming Minister for Primary Industries, John McVeigh, cut funding and pinned his hopes on saving the fire ant program with 'targeted surveillance': using untried and untested remote-sensing technology to detect fire ant nests with heat sensing cameras mounted on a helicopter. The independent scientific review of the fire ant program in 2009 had warned that it was likely the technology would identify all sorts of warm things as nests and miss actual nests. Which is exactly what happened. By May 2015, after spending millions of dollars over five years, the technology had detected only eleven nests. But fire ants continued to spread and the next-to-useless remote-sensing program has now come to an end.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/06/24/searching-for-fire-ants-by-helicopter-remote-sensing-or-remote-chance/>

The Queensland government continues to claim that it can eradicate fire ants. Four independent scientific reviews in 2002, 2004, 2006 and 2009 have said it is not. It seems likely the most recent scientific review, in 2015, led by Dr Bill Magee from the Co-operative Research Centre for Plant Biosecurity, agrees. The Commonwealth Government considered Dr Magee's report in May this year but has yet to make a decision about what to do about the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. The program is now in limbo.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/06/12/fire-ant-program-in-seq-in-limbo/>

In the meantime, the Queensland Government, having failed to stop the spread of fire ants with \$350m of public money, and possibly having made it worse, has now moved to dump the resulting mess back onto the public who have already paid for an eradication program. The new *Biosecurity Act 2014* which came into effect on 1 July 2016, creates a legal responsibility for people whose work or hobbies involves moving or storing fire ant friendly materials like soil and mulch and pot plants to ensure they don't spread fire ants: or be penalized if they don't or pay private providers to do it for them.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/07/04/queensland-government-dumps-the-fire-ant-problem-onto-the-public/>

I suggest it is now time to remove responsibility for the fire ant program from the State Government and Biosecurity Queensland. Industry groups have suggested that Biosecurity Queensland should become a statutory authority, independent of political decision making and with more accountability.

I suggest it is now time for Biosecurity Queensland to implement the program of 'aggressive containment' that the US fire ant experts recommended in 2001. While the Queensland Government recruited hundreds of staff to search for and treat fire ant nests, it recruited very few biosecurity inspectors to identify businesses who move or store fire ant friendly material like soil or mulch, to help them to develop risk management plans and to audit those plans. Fire ants now infest an area of around 350,000ha and the Queensland government employs only a handful of biosecurity inspectors and a mounts a couple of dozen road signs to stop people accidentally or carelessly spreading fire ants.

<http://swepson.com.au/2016/06/20/creating-a-fire-ant-biosecurity-industry/>

Finally, I suggest it is time for all Ministers who have been responsible for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program to justify why they rejected independent scientific advice and how they have spent \$350m of public money for the public good.

National News

Keep Australia Beautiful Network (KAB) - Do The Right Thing. (<http://kab.org.au/>)



The Keep Australia Beautiful Network (KAB), consisting of an independent federation network in each State and Territory, is a national organisation that is recognised as Australia's independent litter prevention thought and practice leader, for a litter free and sustainable Australia.

Save the date! Keep Australia Beautiful Week 2016 will take place from 22 – 28 August.

Keep Australia Beautiful National Association is the national operator for the Eco-Schools program in Australia.

Eco-Schools is an international program of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), and aims to empower students to be the change our sustainable world needs by engaging them in fun, action-orientated learning. Australia is the 55th country to launch.

The Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) website has a double menu for navigation their site at the top of the 'home' page. The top menu is their organisational menu, while the menu below indicates how local government, businesses, communities, schools and individuals are able to be involved in various activities of the KAB organisation.

Some 'Resource' links from the KAB website are:

- [Wasteful Consumption Survey](#)
- [Understanding littering behaviour in Australia \(PDF\)](#)
- [Recycling Near You](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [The 'Fun Theory' on Litter](#)
- [The 'Fun Theory' on Recycling](#)
- [Trash the Beach by Keep California Beautiful](#)
- [Neat Streets – showcasing ideas for tackling litter around the world](#)
- [National Waste Report in 2010](#)

For full information about the Keep Australia Beautiful Network visit <http://kab.org.au/> .



Australian Marine Conservation Society - <http://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

Have you ever been to the beach to swim or sunbathe? Have you ever been to the coast to have a fish at the beach or in an estuary (or upstream) or in the sea? Surfing? ... Sailed? ... Snorkeled? ... Dived?

No matter whether you live on the coast, in a nearby town or in the sticks, all anyone has to do to actually know you are at the coast/on the sea, is to breathe in that beautiful sea-breeze. Inhale the air and smell the saltiness ... just to be at the coast is a dream for many, even if it is a holiday. Being at the coast is infinitely better than watching it on TV. How do the coastal people and councils manage to keep their beaches, estuaries and sea clean?

The coastal environment is something which is loved by most Australians and visitors. So the answer to the above question is very obvious... coastal people, like most towns take an enormous pride in their environment. The environment, the coast and sea, more or less invites locals to do their bit to keep it beautiful. The environment creates 'doers' and in return gives the population a relaxed and happy mind-set.

The coastal population realizes that not all people from elsewhere would fully comprehend the nature and values of the coast and sea to man/woman. So, in 1965 a group was formed to aid in protecting at first the immediate coastal region and now encompasses the wildlife and environment in Australian Coastal and Marine waters. This group has come to be known as the 'Australian Marine Conservation Society'.

The marine environment is an extremely fragile and precious environment. The interactions between and among the wildlife and their environment are many. Unlike us humans, the marine wildlife is usually not able to move to another area kilometres away if their immediate environment is disturbed. Think of corals for a moment. Corals begin life as a very small larval plankton(planula). These small corals drift at the mercy of the tides and currents. They eventually settle on a usually rough substrate (coral colony) to tether itself to the reef. Microscopic symbiotic algae enter the settled larvae and that's where they stay for the rest of their life. The coral animals cannot pack up and go elsewhere if their environment becomes muddied or contaminated from fertilizer/chemical run-off. The symbiotic algae die from lack of sunlight or chemical attack from herbicides, or too much macro-algal growth from chemicals/fertilizers. The corals die, also known as 'bleaching'.

Consider the turtle. Some of its diet consists of actively eating jelly-fish. Now, consider a small plastic bag. Plastic bags are really not good for the turtles' digestion. Deadly in fact. So, when a female turtle ingests then dies from consuming a plastic bag, the result is 1 dead turtle, right? ... WRONG! ... 300 eggs laid each season by a female turtle, will not be laid. Consider, a female turtle might usually live for 150 years say. I'll let you do the math for the missing number of turtles in the sea.

Now, consider the possible impact of throwing fishing line into the sea water on 2 human scuba divers. In my experience as a diver, I have had a dive-buddy caught up in fishing line. At first the situation was OK. Then, my buddy started to turn around to loosen the fishing line, but that action resulted in the fishing line being further wrapped around his legs and body. My buddy began panicking and did not let me help him further. Lucky we were at only 10 metres depth and I was able to get him to the surface. His first words to me were 'why did we come to the surface?'. Together at the surface, he stopped panicking (he didn't even know he panicked) and we were able to untangle the fishing line. Lucky.

The above stories are some of the very few reasons why the Australian Marine Conservation Society protect and in some instances fight in courts to preserve the delicate environment of the sea and coast. The marine environment is an extremely complex environment. Full of beauty, diversity, wilderness and danger. It has very complex food chains/webs, and if one link in the chain disappears, many marine life- forms will be depleted. No Macca's underwater!

Australian Marine Conservation Society website link: [AMCS website](http://www.marineconservation.org.au/)

(Written by Steve Gribble, HOPE member)

HOPE's Pledge facility - <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

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Helpful Hints



50 Ways to Save Water – revisiting some basic tips!

In the home

1. Consider purchasing a front loading washing machine, or one with a Water Wise rating high than 4.
2. Adjust the water level according to the size of your wash load.
3. If the function is available, use the eco setting on your washing machine and dishwasher where possible.
4. Install dual-flush toilets, if a new toilet is out of the question, consider a water saving gadget for older toilets, example of these are Waterwiz (Toilet Water Save) and Flexiflush.
5. Catch the cold water flushed from hot water pipes, whilst in the shower or running a sink to wash the dishes, to water your plants.
6. Don't over flush your toilet – items such as cigarette butts, tissues and rubbish don't need to be flushed and can cause sewerage and septic problems.
7. Take shorter showers; perhaps consider a short shower timer.
8. Move the teenagers out. They use 300 litres of shower water each.
9. When bathing children or pets only fill the bath up with as much water as is needed.
10. Replace old shower heads with new 3 Star water saving heads, these save between 6-11 litres per minute.
11. Don't shave your legs in the shower, use a container of water and use it to shave. For men, don't rinse your razor under a running tap, use a container or sink of water to rinse.
12. Don't leave water running while shaving or brushing your teeth.
13. Install aerating taps.
14. Ensure taps are properly turned off.
15. Install flow restrictors.
16. Ensure your dishwasher is full before running a cycle.
17. Consider purchasing a water efficient dishwasher, and continue to run it on a full load and an eco setting.
18. When washing dishes by hand don't rinse them under a running tap. If you have 2 sinks fill the second with plain water to rinse in.
19. Similarly, wash vegetables in a half filled sink of water instead of under a running tap.
20. Use a sink strainer to catch food debris from dishes, the waste can then be thrown in the bin rather than flushed down the drain with running water.
21. Where possible, try to use phosphate free environmentally friendly dishwashing detergents and cleaning products in all wet areas as this reduces the need to rinse.
22. Use only as much water as you need in the kettle and reduce your electricity usage at the same time.
23. Don't use running water to defrost food, place in the refrigerator and defrost overnight or microwave.
24. Microwave or steaming in a pressure cooker is the most water efficient method of cooking. Also ensure pot lids have a tight seal.
25. Keep a container of water in the fridge so you don't need to run the tap until the water is cool enough to drink.
26. Make sure the thermostat on your hot water system is not set to high, adding cold water to very hot water is wastefully and energy in-efficient.
27. Reduce your water pressure. A registered plumber can install a pressure reduction valve.
28. Fix dripping or leaking taps and check your house for hidden leaks, by turning off all taps and checking to see that your water meter isn't ticking over

In the Garden

29. Install a grey water system and, then recycle your 100% environmentally friendly grey water onto your gardens.
30. Install rainwater tanks.
31. Make sure your sprinklers are positioned well and are only watering your plants and gardens and not paved areas.
32. As lawn requires a high amount of water, choose a slow growing or water saver variety or plant gardens over lawn.
33. Aerate or spike your lawn as this allows for more effective watering.
34. A good soak every now and then with a hand held hose will help make your lawn more drought resistant with deeper roots.
35. Use old bath water on your garden and lawns.
36. Consider installing a bore to utilise ground water.
37. Water the roots of the plants rather than the leaves and stems.
38. Watering in the cool of the morning or evening prevents evaporation.
39. Install a water wise irrigation system available from endorsed irrigators. Or consider a drip watering system and use a timer.
40. Avoid putting high water use plants in hot sunny positions, visit a garden centre and get advice on the overall layout of your garden.
41. Plant drought tolerant native plants.
42. Use soil conditioners and wetting agents to retain the moisture in your soil.
43. Deep mulch and add compost to your soil.
44. Use a cover on your swimming pool to prevent evaporation.
45. A pool surrounded by decking loses less water to evaporation.

46. Be alert and cover your pool on windy days as evaporation increases with wind rate.
47. Fill your pool to half way up the skimmer opening, overflowing your pool causes it to operate inefficiently and wastes water.
48. Never hose down paved areas, instead sweep or use a blower.
49. Wash cars, boats, trailers etc. on the lawn and (if practical) with a bucket rather than a hose.
50. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water.



10 Easiest Chemical Free Things to Do

(Courtesy of The Self Sufficiency Shoppe - <http://theshoppe.com.au/>)

1. Clean with bicarb soda - a simple paste of bicarb soda and water applied to sponge or cloth will clean bench-tops, tiles, stove-top, bath, sink, inside fridge and much more and replace a range of commercial cleaners.
2. Wash floors with boiling water and a mop! Boiling hot water (from the kettle) cleans just as well as moderately hot water (from the hot water tap) and chemically laced floor cleaners.
3. Use vinegar in place of commercial disinfectants. It works just as well without the cost and chemicals. To enhance the odour add a few drops eucalyptus oil.
4. Bath or shower with soap - a simple bar of soap - in place of shower gels and body washes (which are chemically based detergents).
5. Use oatmeal (mixed with water) as a facial cleanser in place of chemically based skin cleansers or wipes. (Oatmeal is wonderful natural skin cleanser - very gentle and leaves skin soft and smooth).
6. Wash clothes without detergents. Most modern washing machines have sufficient action to clean with-out the use of harsh cleaners - particularly so for everyday wear (as opposed to work clothes). If you feel you must use something to clean try washing soda (water softener from the supermarket).
7. Use vinegar and olive oil (1/2 quantity of each) in place of commercial polish (i.e. Mr Sheen) to clean and polish surfaces. Suited to wooden surfaces, leather/vinyl furniture, shoes, hand-bags, belts. Simply apply to soft cloth and wipe the surface.
8. Use a good old fashioned fly swat in place of toxic aerosol insect sprays - particularly if it's just one troublesome fly!
9. Use fresh flowers or pot plant as a room deodoriser in place of chemically enhanced air-fresheners - such as aerosol sprays or plug-ins. Or try temporarily burning a candle - a lighted candle absorbs unwanted odours. Much cheaper and less toxic than the commercial option.
10. Last - but not least - you'll need something refreshingly chemical free after all that hard work. Try some homemade lemon cordial - with no added chemicals or colours: Dissolve 2 cups sugar in 2 cups boiling water. Add juice of 6 lemons and grated rind of 3 lemons. (Dilute one part of cordial to 10 parts icy water. Note: For sugar free option simply squeeze fresh lemon juice into a glass of icy water.

Understanding Plastic Recycling Codes				
A handy guide to safe plastic use				
Code	Name	Common Use	Recycle Rate	Recommendation
	PET Polyethylene Terephthalate	Plastic bottles (soft drink, single-use water bottles, sport drinks), food jars, cosmetic containers.	23%	Be careful with products labeled No. 1. Designed for single use only. Extended use increases risk of leaching and bacterial growth.
	HDPE High density polyethylene	Grocery Bags, detergent bottles, milk and juice jugs.	27%	Appears to be Safe
	PVC Polyvinyl chloride	Garden hose, cable sheathing, window frames, blister packs, blood bags, meat wrap.	< 1%	Avoid Nicknamed the Poison Plastic, contains many dangerous toxins.
	LDPE Low density Polyethylene	Heavy duty bags, drycleaning bags, bread bags, squeezable bottles, plastic food wrap.	< 1%	Appears to be Safe
	PP Polypropylene	Medicine bottles, cereal liners, packing tape, straws, potato chip bags.	3 %	Appears to be Safe
	PS Polystyrene	CD and video cases, plastic cutlery, foam packaging, egg cartons.	< 1%	Avoid May leach styrene, a possible human carcinogen. May be a hormone disruptor.
	Other PC Polycarbonate	Baby bottles, water cooler bottles, car parts	< 1%	Caution Concern with leaching of Bisphenol A which appears to cause chromosomal damage.

Useful Tips:

- * Store food and water in glass or stainless steel containers whenever possible
- * Minimize or eliminate exposure to plastics with code 1, 3, 6, or 7
- * Do not use products (especially Baby Bottles) identified with No. 7

www.PlasticFreeBottles.com
Your source for alternatives to plastic bottles

Resources



TERN: In the spotlight

The Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network's (TERN) Data Discovery Portal provides a single point of entry for access to data on Australia's terrestrial ecosystems.

[Read more.](#)

The Sustainable Development Goals report 2016 - Department of Economic and Social Affairs (United Nations)

This inaugural report on the global Sustainable Development Goals is a first accounting of where the world stands at the start of our collective journey to 2030 and analyses selected indicators...

<http://apo.org.au/resource/sustainable-development-goals-report-2016>

<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20Report%202016.pdf>

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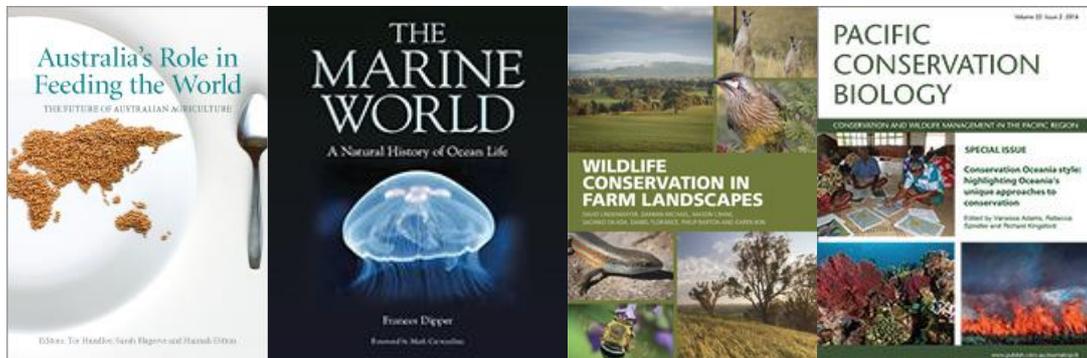
Due this month: *Australia's Role in Feeding the World* provides valuable insight into the future of agriculture in this nation.

The Marine World is a beautifully illustrated guide to the organisms that live in, on and around the ocean.

Wildlife Conservation in Farm Landscapes provides best practice ways to integrate conservation and agriculture in the temperate eucalypt woodland belt of eastern Australia.

This month we also released a special edition of our journal, *Pacific Conservation Biology*, *Conservation Oceania Style: Highlighting Oceania's Unique Approaches to Conservation*

For more titles, browse or search our [online catalogue](#).



(Click onto picture for more information)

Some excellent articles from Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Knowledge Community

[\(http://on-climate.com/\)](http://on-climate.com/)

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[It's Not Easy Being Green](http://on-climate.com/news/its-not-easy-being-green) - <http://on-climate.com/news/its-not-easy-being-green>

[Climate-smart Cities Could Save the World \\$22tn, Say Economists](http://on-climate.com/news/climate-smart-cities-could-save-the-world-22tn-say-economists) - <http://on-climate.com/news/climate-smart-cities-could-save-the-world-22tn-say-economists>