



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

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ABN 48 036 173 161

### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2017 #06 --- 03 June 2017

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.

## Editorial

Hello!

It is so encouraging to see that the Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) last weekend attracted so many people! Besides the enjoyment, we can only hope that everyone learned at least one thing that might influence their behaviour in relation to environmental impacts. I know Frank and I very much enjoyed the day, speaking with people about our organisation and providing tips and information about the environment. And we even were interviewed by Costa himself! What a great plug for HOPE!

Miriam Sharp, Acting Newsletter Editor

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## 2017 National/International Events Calendar

- [2017 – International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#)
- [2014-2024 – International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)

### June

- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 10 **HOPE – Ordinary Meeting**
- 15 [Global Wind Day](#)
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)
- 17 **HOPE – 3<sup>rd</sup> Community Forum: Going Solar – On/Off Grid with battery storage**

### July

- 11 [World Population Day](#)
- 15 **HOPE picnic social - 11am start** Peacehaven Botanic Park & Nursery, 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields
- 28 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 30 [National Tree Day](#)

### August

- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 12-20 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 **HOPE Community Forum: An Overview of Condamine Alliance (NRM / Landcare) - beginnings, current achievements and future plans**
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 21-27 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

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## Date Claimer

### Saturday, 10 June 2017 -- HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting

Commencing at 10am sharp, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD.

Morning tea provided.

Please RSVP by 9 June to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

## HOPE News – June 2017

Another busy and productive month for HOPE with major highlights being:

- 10/05 – attended Alternative Technology Australia (ATA) Toowoomba meeting to explore options for a local Community Owned Renewable Energy (CORE) project
- 16/05 attended a specially convened meeting to discuss the recognition and future preservation and/or heritage listing of Eagle's Nest Depression Camp (located in Redwood Park, Toowoomba)
- 20/05 HOPE and Southern Beekeepers Association (Toowoomba) jointly hosted a Talk on Native Bees. This followed by a picnic social at Hodgson Vale Lions Park
- 28/05 Miriam Sharp and I staffed a HOPE information display at the Logan Eco Act Festival held at Griffith University – Logan Campus, Meadowbrook

On the down side, we were advised that 2 of our project funding applications were unsuccessful. Fingers crossed, that the other grant applications fair better!

Our next quarterly Ordinary Meeting is on Saturday 10 June, commencing at 10am at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba. Your attendance is most welcome.

Lastly, our next Community Forum is on Saturday 17 June and features ACDC Energy who will present on "Going Solar – ON/Off Grid with Battery Storage".

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph (07) 4639 2135

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## Letters to the Editor

Hi,

What would you like to see improved about gardening to help the environment? I'm putting together a toolkit on how to garden green and safely, and I want to make this as robust as possible. I came across your page (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/resources/interesting-websites/>) while looking for green resources and wanted to reach out – I hope you don't mind.

Here's some of the awesome stuff I've found so far from USA websites – but if you have any recommendations on where else to look, please let me know.

- Gardening with Native Plants - [http://www.plantnative.org/how\\_intro.htm](http://www.plantnative.org/how_intro.htm)
- Guide to Clean Plant Care - <https://www.brighterblooms.com/blog/green-safe-gardening-ultimate-guide-clean-plant-care/>
- Attracting Native Pollinators - <http://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/gardening-techniques/how-to-attract-bees-zebz1305zstp>
- Rain Barrel and Water Conservation Tips - <http://www.cityofkearney.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/5466>
- 100+ Ways to Conserve Water - <http://wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/?view=list>

Thanks,

Cyrus Dylan

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### Your financial support sought- <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.

## Feature Articles

### **Making the linear circular. Is it time?**

Written by the [Waste Management Association of Australia](#) (WMAA). This article first appeared in *Inside Waste* magazine, April/May 2017 issue.

In Europe and in Asia, with the support of government, more businesses are discarding the decades-old linear “take, make, waste” model in favour of the circular economy.

Although “circular economy” might seem like a new concept borne from a recognition that world resources are finite, commodity prices are on the rise and the world is in a desperate need to decouple economic growth from resource consumption, its underlying principles such as cradle-to-cradle, industrial ecology and biomimicry have been practiced since the 1970s.

In recent years, circular economy has gained traction thanks to the work conducted by a number of organisations, predominantly the charity Ellen MacArthur Foundation and McKinsey & Company, who in 2012 released a world-first report making a business case for it. An updated study, *Towards a Circular Economy*, was published in 2015. The study found that the economic gain from material savings alone – if companies focused on circular supply chains that increase recycling, reuse and remanufacture – could be estimated at over US\$1 trillion a year by 2025.

Considering that an estimated 80% of the US\$3.2 trillion value of the global consumer goods sector is lost irrecoverably each year due to the current linear model (World Economic Forum), it is understandable why governments and business alike are beginning to sharpen their focus on circular economy.

In late 2015, the European Commission (EC) adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package which consists of an EU Action Plan with measures covering the whole product life cycle: from design, sourcing, production and consumption to waste management and a market for secondary raw materials.

The EC recognised that a transition towards a more circular economy would bring great opportunities to modernise and transform the European economy, shifting it towards a more sustainable direction with additional energy savings and environmental benefits, as well as the creation of more local jobs.

The China Association of Circular Economy – comprising of government, academic and business leaders promoting the practice of circular economy – cites annual growth of 15% between 2006 and 2010 of its circular economy, doubling from 1 trillion yuan in 2010 to 1.8 trillion yuan in 2015.

Where does this leave Australia? Based on the estimates, Australia's cut of the US\$1 trillion could be \$26 billion by 2025, with more jobs creation, less landfill, resource depletion and environmental damage (World Economic Forum).

In the absence of federal initiatives, state and local governments, communities and businesses are developing projects to foster a circular economy.

South Australia, with its introduction of the Waste Strategy 2015–2020, aims to steer the state towards landfill diversion rates of 70%, 80% and 90% respectively, with additional attention given to energy from waste.

In Victoria, in an Australian first, Yarra Valley Water constructed a waste to energy facility linked to a sewage treatment plant. The purpose-built facility will provide an environmentally friendly disposal solution for commercial organic waste, with an estimated 33,000 tonnes of commercial food waste diverted from landfill each year.

The Cowra Biomass project in NSW is another prime example of a community driven circular economy that shows what state and local government, industry and community can achieve with waste that is created locally: turn it into energy and fertiliser, which then can be reused within that same geographical location.

Within the private sector, the Australian firm Interface repurposes discarded fishing line from the Philippines to create its Net Effect carpet range. Replas, another Australian company, has for more than 20 years provided a solution for plastic waste by turning it into more than 200 recycled plastic products, including outdoor furniture.

Yet, in spite of these and many other examples of circular economy models taking a quiet foothold in the context of Australia's relationship with waste and resource recovery, are we still lagging behind the rest of the world in terms of a national debate, policy development, business modelling and mind set?

*The [Waste Management Association of Australia](#) (WMAA) is the peak body for the waste and resource recovery industry. Our purpose is to support our members in achieving sustainable waste and resource management across Australia. We are the voice of the industry, the first port of call for government when*

*seeking industry views and input. We work closely with stakeholders to promote the value of our industry and to ensure the best possible outcomes for our members.*

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## **14 Items You Can Recycle - But Probably Aren't (Part One)**

*By Brad Gray for Planet Ark*

Australians have embraced recycling with more than nine out of ten people recycling at home. But as the industry continues to grow and expand the range of products and materials you can recycle continues to grow. In this two-part series, we showcase 14 items you can recycle – but probably aren't.

**Aluminium Foil** – Most councils accept aluminium foil in your general recycling bin. You just need to scrunch it in to a ball – about the size of a golf ball or larger - so that it can be sorted correctly by the recycling machines.

**Aerosol Cans** – Aerosol Cans are made from steel or aluminium and both are fully recyclable in almost all kerbside systems. Just make sure they're empty.

**Batteries** – Batteries can't go in your kerbside recycling bin – in fact they can cause real problems if they go in there. But you can find local drop-off options for batteries around the country. Most of these programs are run by councils or retailers.

**Bathroom Packaging**– Aerosol cans, toilet rolls and common items like shampoo and conditioner bottles, are made from recyclable materials but Australians often forget to recycle them. Basically, this is because we don't have recycling bins in the bathroom. Keep recyclable items separate and remember to drop them in the recycling.

**Construction and Renovation Material** – It seems that Aussies are always renovating. And the good news is that if you use a reputable construction and demolition recycling company you can recycle well over 80% of a house. The materials are put through a sorting process and then turned back into useful products. Don't be shy to ask the contractor what happens with your waste. Our friends at Bingo Bins send every skip bin they collect through a recycling process which means less waste to landfill.

**Coffee Pods** – Coffee Pods have experienced a boom over the past few years. For them to be recycled they need to go through a special process to separate the coffee grounds from the aluminium and plastic. Check if the manufacturer of your pods has a recycling program and they either drop them off or send them back.

**Computers and TVs** – Since 2012 Australians have been able access free services provided under the National TV and Computer Recycling Scheme and funded by the manufacturers and importers. This has resulted in a huge increase in recycling. Industry group TechCollect has recycled over 80,000 tonnes of e-waste.

So, are there any items on this list that you're not recycling? Follow the link to find out more or check out [www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au](http://www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au) for lots more recycling information.

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### **Wanted – Used Postage Stamps**

HOPE collects used postage stamps and/or un-wanted stamp albums for community groups' fund-raising purposes. Please consider collecting used postage stamps from home and/or work, and forwarding a pack of used stamps to the HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) office, PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba, QLD 4350; or drop them off at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

## National News

### **APEEL: The Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law. A Healthy and Resilient Environment that Benefits Everyone**

Australia faces unprecedented environmental challenges. Australia's key environmental indicators continue to decline. Some of the persistent problems include a decline in biodiversity, degradation of productive rural land, intensification of development along coastlines and in sprawling cities, and the emerging impacts of climate change. These problems are in addition to the past damage that needs to be repaired.

Given the need to address systematically, effectively and creatively Australia's ecological challenges, it is time to consider the need for more effective environmental laws. APEEL has developed a blueprint for the next generation of Australian environmental laws with the aim of ensuring a healthy, functioning and resilient environment for generations to come. [Our series of technical discussion papers focus on the following themes](#):

1. The foundations of environmental law
2. Environmental governance
3. Terrestrial natural resources management
4. Marine and coastal issues
5. Climate law
6. Energy regulation
7. The private sector, business law and environmental performance
8. Democracy and the environment

You can access an [Overview Paper](#) of our key ideas and the full [List of Recommendations](#) reforms.

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### **Climate Emergency Declaration - <http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>**

#### ***Call on Australian federal, state, and local governments to declare a climate emergency***

[This website](#) is part of a growing campaign by grassroots climate action groups to pressure our political leaders to step up and do what is needed to address the climate crisis. Our goal is for governments to declare a climate emergency and mobilise society-wide resources at sufficient scale and speed to protect civilisation, the economy, people, species, and ecosystems.

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### **Communicating the Future**

*By John O'Brien, Managing Director of [Australian CleanTech](#) and [Sino CleanTech](#), May 2017*

Trying to do the right thing for the environment as a householder can be a frustrating ordeal!

Government support comes and goes; community support wavers; the media seems mostly incapable of presenting a rational argument. Many in the environment sector clearly see the global problem and are helping to deliver practical solutions. Sometimes it seems incredible that others in our community are being so short-sighted. Can they really all be that selfish and greedy? Why are people not just being *rational*?

The fault however is not with your audience. It is just that the messages we tell are not being heard. Humans are not wired in a way that easily hears that things need to change. In fact, most environmental communications are futile in their attempt to engage the whole community and there are some very good psychological reasons for this.

Despite the pretence, humans are not primarily rational. We are, first of all, emotional beings dependent on chemicals. Every decision we make is emotional even if it may happen to be rational in hindsight.

I work with entrepreneurs, both in start-ups and corporates, helping them to build their business skills and to communicate more effectively. One of the secrets to their success is to be able to communicate a better future to attract investors, customers and employees. If you need an example, think of Steve Jobs and how he communicated the vision of Apple.

There are also many examples of how successful leaders communicate and behave. Again, a key success factor is to attract followers towards a better future. Martin Luther King did not say '*I have a bit of plan – let me explain*'. He had a dream!

Conversely, environmental communications have largely been saying '*unless we change, bad things are going to happen*'. It may be true, but it is hardly inspirational!

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Protesting against bad things – complaining when people die or get poisoned – is powerful and has resulted in the wonderful clean environment we have today in Australia. This strategy works really well when the adverse consequences and their solutions are short term. It does not however succeed if the consequences are gradual and non-imminent.

We need to bring some inspirational storytelling into the way we communicate the environment. Great changes happen through storytelling. They attract people towards an idea rather than scaring people into changing to avoid bad stuff. They build support for moving to a paradigm that better fits the world.

There is some excellent research on how paradigm shifts occur: how people change their fundamental world view. It is never *away* from a bad concept and it is only ever *towards* something better: something that makes more sense and feels right.

As part of a global project, I have assembled visions of a better world from 80 of the world's leading environmental thinkers. There are 33 from Australia, 16 from Asia, 16 from Europe and 15 from the Americas. In Australia, they include Professor Ian Chubb, Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty, Paul Gilding and explorer Tim Jarvis. Internationally, there are visions from Christiana Figueres, Bill McKibben, Connie Hedegaard and Yvo de Boer.

There are views on technology, investments, communities, transport, priorities, how success is measured. There are pessimistic visions of the Great Climate Crisis. Many look back at the world in 2015 and shake their heads at how the world dithered – and caused so much needless suffering as a result. Back to the generation of 'Time Thieves' as one author puts it.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland wrote in her vision that in 2100, '*Poverty is eradicated. Every child goes to school regardless of sex, race, religion or place of birth. Every woman enjoys equality with every man. Every household has access to energy. In 2100, the world is just.*'

So rather than scaring people into action, we must instead attract people to build a better world for themselves and their grandchildren.

The human race can do extraordinary things when it needs to. With the right motivation, humans can win unwinnable wars, put men on the moon, build pyramids or create atomic bombs. However, the complex issue of climate change is one that our race is struggling to address. The solutions are not beyond us in any way. Technological solutions exist, scientific knowledge is plentiful, the world can afford the transition but still significant action eludes us. There are many rational arguments for clear paths forward. The complexity of climate change is now in the psychology of communication.

Changing the world begins with a dream for the future. To help this transition, we need to adjust the way we communicate and bring the wider community along with us towards a better future. Failure to do so will just prolong the frustrating ordeal.

So, as a householder, what can you do? You can write and share your own vision of the future – what you really want. You can set up a Visions project for your organisation/community/suburb by asking people what they really want and start a discussion of how you jointly achieve this outcome. You can set your own project page on the Visions website and share your community's vision with the world. You'll find lots of people share your vision.

The only way to have the future you really want is to be part of creating it. What's stopping you?

*(John O'Brien is the Managing Director of [Australian CleanTech](#) and [Sino CleanTech](#). He is also the founder of the global [VISIONS 2100 Project](#) that is seeking short visions of a better world from everyone that it can share globally.)*

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**Wanted – Photocopy paper**

HOPE has used up its current stock of photocopy paper and we are asking our members and supporters to donate a ream or two of A4 photocopy paper. Donations of paper can be left on the table in the carport at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

Alternately, cash or cheque donations can be made online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/> or posted to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 -Clifford Gardens Toowoomba QLD 4350.

## Queensland News

### Report on Native Bee Talk by Southern Beekeepers Association (SBA)

On Saturday 20 May 2017, 35 people attended Nev Hunt's place in Hodgson Vale to learn the difference between honey and native bees, and how to care for native bees in particular.



Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE welcomed visitors and outlined the program for the morning, which included 4 speakers and morning tea. He gave a brief overview of HOPE and its main aims, as well as giving details of the SBA which has been around since the early 1950s. The SBA's aims are to:

1. Promote interest in amateur beekeeping
2. Promote good fellowship and competition amongst those interested in amateur beekeeping
3. Educate, train, coach and encourage members of the association.

Further information on SBA may be found on their [website](#) and [facebook page](#).

Frank then handed over to Nev, who explained the difference between honey bee and native bees. He showed a frame from a honey bee hive and the attendees also got to taste fresh honey that had seeped from that frame.

Denise, the second speaker, brought along a couple of her native bee hives to show the size and construction method. And it was great to be able to peek inside and see the bees at home.

Reg, the 3<sup>rd</sup> speaker, gave a powerpoint presentation of the major species of both honey and native bees, diseases, and construction, size and shape of native bee hives. Very informative!

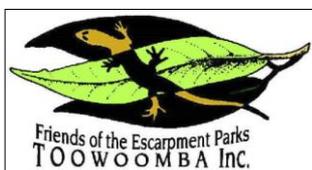
Ian, the final speaker, spoke on pollination and the role that bees have in the agricultural industry and backyard gardens.

A big thanks to members of the SBA for their support of the community event. Much appreciated!



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### Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) - *Caring for Toowoomba's bushlands*



Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) is a proactive environmental group carrying out bushland rehabilitation activities in and around Toowoomba and Highfields.

FEP was founded by Doctor John Swarbrick in 1990s to rehabilitate bushland parks within the Toowoomba region and on the escarpment. Previous projects include clearing weeds from the Eagles Nest depression camp site in Redwood

Park in 1994 and converting an old quarry at Duggan Park into the Millennium Forrest in 1999. Current FEP projects include carrying out a range of bush regeneration activities at Redwood Park on the range crossing, Duggan Park, Nielsen Park, Hartmann Reserve, Jubilee Park, Panorama Crescent Park, Echo Valley South Park, Hancock St Park in Toowoomba and Charmaine Ct, Kleinton (near Highfields).

Friends of the Escarpment Parks (Toowoomba) Inc. is a non-profit community volunteer group interested in the management, maintenance, and development and public use of Toowoomba's bushland and escarpment parks. The group works closely with the Parks and Recreation Branch of the Toowoomba Regional Council, assisting with many aspects of the management of these areas as well as promoting public awareness and use of the unique asset to the community which these parks represent.

Participating in these projects during the week and/or on weekends is not only very informative but also offers interesting physical and social activities which are both beneficial and rewarding for those who enjoy the outdoors. We are looking for volunteers to help us with a variety of bush regeneration projects. Our main role is removing introduced weeds from our public bushland reserves to help enable the native bushland vegetation to re-establish.

FEP offers great volunteering opportunities to help protect the environment as well as assisting our local community. Learn new skills and meet like-minded people while working in bushland areas carrying out bush regeneration projects. Training in the identification of weeds as well as many of the native plants and animals will also be provided.

Our Objectives:

- To foster public awareness and recreational use of Toowoomba's bushland parks;
- To assist Toowoomba Regional Council with the development, management and maintenance of the parks;
- To identify and develop projects which enhance Toowoomba's bushland areas;
- To promote public use of these unique areas;
- To encourage and oversee volunteer workers in the management and maintenance of the parks.

### **Bushland Parks & Active Bushcare Groups**

These relaxing bushland parks are open to the public to explore and enjoy. You are also welcome to check out and/or join a Bushcare group to help assist with rehabilitation activities in your local or preferred bushland park.

- Charmaine Ct, Kleinton (near Highfields) (1st Saturday each month from 9am – 12) (Contact Ian Henderson 4696 9256)
- Nielsen Park (Colman Drive, off Mackenzie St) (1st & 4th Saturday each month 9am – 12) (Contact Rob Brodribb 0407 124 863) ([rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rwbrodribb@ozemail.com.au))
- Jubilee Park (Coventry Court) (Northern end of Mackenzie Street, Mt Lofty) (1st Sunday each month) (Contact Geoff Sharp 0427 038 055)
- Redwood Park (Each Mon 8am & Thu 7am) (Plus 2nd & 4th Sunday each month 8am) (Warrego Highway below the saddle) (Contact Hugh Krenske [info@fep.org.au](mailto:info@fep.org.au)) (or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758)
- Hancock St Park (off McClymont Dr) (Thursday from 8:30am each week) (Plus alternating Saturdays from 8:30am) (Contact Max Henderson 0427 866 091)
- Duggan Park (3rd Saturday each month from 8:30am) (Leslie & Collier Streets, Rangeville) (Contact Max Henderson 0427 866 091)
- Hartmann Bushland Reserve (Wednesday from 8:30am each week) (Cnr Alderley St & Rowbotham St) (Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077) ([gglukes@bigpond.com](mailto:gglukes@bigpond.com))
- Panorama Crescent Park (1st Saturday each month from 1pm) (3rd Saturday each month from 9am) (Contact David Heckscher 0419 642 940) ([heckies@bigpond.net.au](mailto:heckies@bigpond.net.au))
- Echo Valley South Park (Ramsay St) (2nd & 5th Saturday each month from 9am) (Contact Greg Lukes 0428 288 077)

### **Other Bushcare groups in the region (Not FEP)**

- Dwyers Scrub Conservation Park (East Egypt Road, Mount Whitestone) (1st Thursday each month 7:30am – 10:30am) (Contact Paul 0429 880 144 or Jim 5462 6724)
- Rogers Reserve, Highfields (1st Friday each month from 9am – 11am) (Contact Judi Gray 0458 155 177)

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### **Volunteers needed**

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include Secretary, Treasurer, Media Officers Publications Team members.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to offer your assistance.

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.

## Report on Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF)

On Sunday 28 May 2017, the Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) was held at the Griffith University, Logan Campus at Meadowbrook. This is a free community event hosted by Logan City Council. Frank and Miriam from HOPE attended the festival with an information booth.

The festival featured about 80 exhibition spaces where not-for-profit organisations and green businesses were able to 'show and tell' and sell their wares. The HOPE booth was right along the entry way into the main arena, and a lot of information sheets were able to be distributed and some very welcome funds raised.

There also were workshops and demonstrations about things like making jam and cheese, bee and chook keeping, composting and growing your own vegies. The kids didn't need to be bored, with a lot of children's activities happening around the festival.



One of the main attractions was the presence of the host of Gardening Australia, Costa Georgiadis. As part of a live Facebook stream, Costa went around the exhibitors for a chat, and he also came to speak with Frank and Miriam, which was a great plug for the organisation.

The weather couldn't have been any better, which ensured attendance numbers were substantial. HOPE wishes to extend a generous thanks to the organisers for a wonderful day and free site, and commends them on a well-run event.

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## Community Forum: "Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage" Saturday, 17 June 2017; 1pm-4pm, Toowoomba City Library, cnr Herries & Victoria Sts, Toowoomba

The theme of this month's community forum hosted by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. is '**Going Solar – On/Off the Grid with Battery Storage**'. The forum will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June from 1-4pm at the Toowoomba City library (Level 3, Cnr Herries and Victoria Streets).

HOPE invites anyone who wants to learn more about the benefits of owning a solar PV system and about battery storage options. Mr Ondrus, President of HOPE Inc. said "it's an opportunity for residents to learn more about renewable energy in the current ecological and economic environment."

Solar systems are not just for domestic premises - business owners, school representatives and community groups are encouraged to come along to learn about how solar might benefit their organisations.

Some advantages of solar include **savings on electricity bills**. Once a system is installed it costs virtually nothing to operate, saving you money on your power bills. Solar also **benefits the environment** by providing **clean energy** - for every 1kw of solar installed a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> is saved every year.

ACDC Energy will outline the benefits of 'going solar', and of the options available for the purchase and installation of solar PV and battery storage systems. ACDC Energy will provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. They will also offer expert advice for those looking for basic energy management through to people considering going completely off the grid.

Bookings are essential. To reserve your seat, please contact HOPE to reserve your seat. Call the HOPE office on 4639 2135 or email at [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .  
Entry by gold coin donation.

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## Resources

### [Australian Stingless Native Bees](#)

There are 10 social species and 1000's of solitary species of native bees in Australia. At [Zabel](#) we keep *Tetragonula* (was *Trigona*) *carbonaria* and *Austroplebeia australis* in portable timber boxes. The boxes are designed so that the nest can be split to create another colony. This can be done every 1 – 2 years.

The bees are used to pollinate all tropical fruits such as Avocados, Mangoes, Citrus, Stone Fruit and Macadamias. They also are useful for the pollination of all fruits and vegetables. They are ideal in backyards as they do not sting and are low maintenance.

Honey production is in its infancy. Be careful when harvesting honey, as the spilt honey will attract a native fly, which will destroy the nest with her maggots. The fly is known as a wasp-mimicking fly.

Lots more information and contact details can be found on our [website](#).

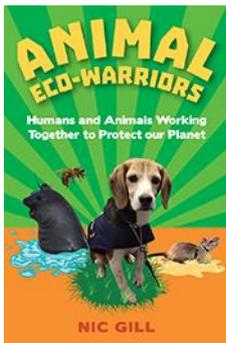
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### [State of the World's Plants](#)

The 2017 State of the World's Plants report aims to provide an overview of current knowledge of the world's plants. Building on the success of last year's report, this year we look not only at the numbers of plants, but also why they are important and what makes some plants more resilient than others to threats of climate change, wildfires and pests. Scientists from around the globe have worked in collaboration with Kew Science to scrutinise databases, published literature, policy documents, reports and satellite imagery to synthesise the latest discoveries and knowledge into this horizon-scanning report.

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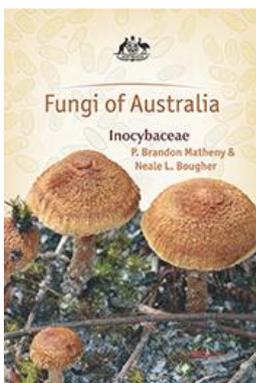
### Books – CSIRO Publishing



#### [Animal Eco Warriors](#)

By Nic Gill

From the nosy noses of biosecurity beagles at airports to rats learning to sniff out landmines in war-torn landscapes, animals are using their unique abilities to help make the world a better and safer place. With fantastic colour photos of animal eco-warriors at work, this book is full of fun facts on how animals are helping humanity work towards a more sustainable future. There are also plenty of tips on how you can make a difference to the planet. Join the animal eco-warrior team today! This book is ideal for teachers and librarians looking for locally relevant, teachable materials addressing environment and sustainability issues, as well as for children and their families with an interest in animals and science.



#### [Fungi of Australia: Inocybaceae](#)

By P Brandon Matheny and Neale L Bougher

This authoritative account provides a major advance in knowledge for this diverse and widespread group, with detailed descriptions, identification keys and phylogenetic trees based on DNA sequences generated during the work. Every species is illustrated with coloured plates and/or line drawings of microscopic features. *Fungi of Australia: Inocybaceae* is a useful reference for professional and semi-professional mycologists in Australia and around the world.

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