



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #06 --- June 2018

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

Good morning folks,

2 great successes for HOPE during the month of May – our BirdLife Australia community forum held here in Toowoomba (8 May) and our environmental information display at Logan Eco Action Festival (27 May).

Reports on these events may be found on pages 2 and 3.

Regards,

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

#### 2018 National/International Events Calendar

##### June

- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 15 [Global Wind Day](#)
- 16 **HOPE Ordinary Meeting, 10am at HOPE Office, 22 Vacy St, Newtown, Toowoomba Qld**
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

##### July

- 8-15 [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 11 [World Population Day](#)
- 27 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 29 [National Tree Day](#)

##### August

- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 11-19 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- TBC [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

#### Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level 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: Researchers; Media Officers; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

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.

## HOPE News --- June 2018

*Hello and welcome to another HOPE Office report.*

*The month of May was fairly busy with planning, preparations and execution of the Toowoomba leg of BirdLife Australia's "Act for Birds, Act for Nature" National Roadshow 'community forum' on 8 May; and our fairly large environmental information display at Logan Eco Action Festival on 27 May. (see reports below)*

*On the downside, 3 of our project funding applications were unsuccessful.*

*Our only planned activity for this month is our quarterly Ordinary Meeting being held on Saturday 16 June. A copy of the meeting's agenda will be emailed to you shortly.*

*Regards,*

*Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)*

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### **Report on community forum – “Act for Birds, Act for Nature” co-hosted by HOPE Inc. and BirdLife Australia, Tuesday, 8 May 2018**

On Tuesday evening, 8 May 2018, 35 people gathered at Laurel Bank Park Hall, Toowoomba to hear BirdLife Australia's national 'roadshow' presentation on “Act for Birds, Act for Nature”, which is in response to the Federal Government's weak Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

BirdLife Australia <http://birdlife.org.au/> and other key member groups of the national Places You Love (PYL) Alliance <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> are recommending a raft of changes to improve the protection and conservation of our environment.

(Refer to previous editions of our newsletter for full articles on Places You Love Alliance and APEEL (Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law)).



Michael Atzeni from the Toowoomba Bird Observers spoke about club members recording fewer sightings in recent years, of a number of bird species including the critically endangered Swift Parrot.

Kim Garratt and Margaret Quixley, representing BirdLife Australia, addressed the gathering on EPBC Act and its short-comings; the reports generated by BirdLife Australia; and the actions taken (including this 'roadshow').

Discussions and interactions indicated that the evening's session was appreciated by all and the efforts of BirdLife Australia in preparing the 'roadshow' will be beneficial to all who participate in the presentations throughout the country.



(Margaret Quixley, BirdLife Australia)



(Margaret, Michael, Cam, Frank and Kim)

Our thanks to BirdLife Australia for coming to Toowoomba free-of-charge and for the work they did, in setting up registrations online before this event (there were 44 registrations; 19 of which did not attend; but walk-ins on the night brought the total of attended to 35.)

Toowoomba Bird Observers representative Michael did a great job in giving information on the activities of the group and the data they have acquired over some 20years. Thanks Michael.

Special thanks to Cam Mackenzie and Greg Spearritt of Amaroo Environmental Education Centre for providing IT equipment and support.

And, to the HOPE volunteers who helped with set-up and catering – thank you one and all. Your efforts helped to make the event run smoothly.

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## Report on Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2018

On Sunday morning, 27 May 2018 Frank, Miriam and Heather travelled to Griffith University – Logan Campus to staff a HOPE environmental information display at the LEAF event; and to raise some funds for the group.



The weather was fine, the crowd for HUGE, we were busy most of the day and we raised \$325.20.

A BIG thanks to Caitlin Row, Logan City Council, for inviting us to the event; and for organizing such a great event.

Thanks also to our environment colleagues who provided literature and

promotional items for our display.

Lastly, thanks to Miriam for providing the transport; and to both Miriam and Heather for their support and help on the day. Much appreciated.

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## Date Claimers

### Plastic Free July challenge



Could you choose to refuse single-use plastic for the month of July? Plastic Free July is an award-winning campaign developed to encourage individuals, organisations, businesses and communities to reduce the single-use plastic they use in July. As well as the 31day Plastic Free July challenge (although if that sounds too hard, you can choose to accept the challenge for a week or even just a day), the campaign works to create conversations and provide education around the issues of plastic pollution and more importantly, promote the solutions.

Created by the Western Metropolitan Regional Council, the Plastic Free July challenge began in Cottesloe, Western Australia in 2011 with less than 40 participants. From its humble beginnings, the challenge has grown into a state-wide, national and now international campaign which in 2016 had over 100,000 West

Australians and more than 1 million people worldwide accepting the challenge. In 2017, we're expecting the challenge to reach even more people and create an even bigger positive impact.

Whether you choose to refuse a handful of items for a single day, choose to refuse all plastic for the entire month, or anything in between, the Plastic Free July challenge is all about taking positive action and being part of a movement creating lasting change. With our focus on solutions, it's easy to take the challenge into our local communities, schools and organisations. Organising a plastic-free morning tea with colleagues, gathering a group of friends to watch a documentary, or getting your local community group to do a beach clean are just some of the ways our participants are spreading the Plastic Free July message. Businesses are getting on board too, encouraging customers to bring reusable coffee cups for takeaways, saying no to plastic straws in restaurants and bars, and removing plastic bags from their stores.

If you'd like to do something in support of Plastic Free July but don't know where to start, the Plastic Free July website has a toolbox full of ideas to help you plan events. With downloadable logos and template posters, through to inspiring stories and detailed case studies, and ideas for the types of events you could host in your local community, you'll be supported all the way. You can also follow along on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to see what others are getting up to.

For more information about Plastic Free July, to sign-up and to access the free resources, visit the website at [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org).

## Feature Articles

### Bugs for Bugs - <https://bugsforbugs.com.au>



Bugs for Bugs is a science-based company that specializes in integrated pest management (IPM) and is one of Australia's leading suppliers of biological control agents. Their objective is to achieve best practice for growers *against* pests and *managing* pests with minimum use of chemical pesticides.

This practice has been in use by providing:

- bio-control organisms and crop protection solutions
- breeding beneficial insects and mites
- fruit fly management
- non-toxic alternatives to conventional chemical pesticides
- research and development into biological control and fruit fly management
- contract research in the field of IPM.

Breeding beneficial insects is very challenging as it uses good pests over bad pests; and that is reflected in the products that Bugs for Bugs offer, including biological control agents, fruit fly management tools, and trap and pheromone products.

Their main insectary is located at the site of the old butter factory in Mundubbera where 50 climate-controlled rooms are used for the production of biological control agents.

The concept of using beneficial insect production involves maintaining continuous insect production with constant monitoring of the nurturing the insects and attention to detail. It is provided on the site that Bugs for Bugs "uses around 250tonnes of butternut squash and 24tonnes of wheat per year for its beneficial insect production."

Around 10 species are produced by Bugs for Bugs, for managing pest problems in a sustainable way rather than chemical pesticides. Each of these rearing systems is complex and labour intensive. It can be noted that this agency's commitment to research is significant and they constantly strive to design the mass rearing systems in a better way, while still searching for new organisms that can help growers with practical alternatives to conventional pesticides.

Products that Bugs for Bugs offer are:

- Bio control agents: Using and producing enemies in nature for predators and parasites which if used strategically, can help in reduction of dependence on chemical pesticides in modern agricultural systems.
- Fruit fly control: Fruit fly menace is known to growers for a long time and Bugs for Bugs have helped manage this problem for more than 35 years, by offering a systems approach and compatible tools. Further, for solving any specific problem, one can talk to specialists.
- Traps and pheromone products: A variety of pest monitoring, mass trapping and mating disruption is also provided on the site.
- Pest management tools: These include DVDs, posters and other sources of information on various components of IPM including:
  - Classical biological control
  - Mass rearing and release of beneficial insects
  - Monitoring for pest and beneficial species
  - Cultural practices

The DVD: *Natural Enemies* provides decision making process and the research commitment involved in executing the IPM. The second edition updates and expands on the successful first production made in 1989. The information is especially interesting for those who want to adopt an IPM approach in their production and is used as a teaching tool.

Bugs for Bugs also maintains a relationship with research providers including the departments of agriculture, universities and CSIRO.

Bugs for Bugs has a long history of experience in crop monitoring to assist growers in achieving good IPM. They provide consulting services in countries such as Thailand, Jordan and Morocco.

Bugs for Bugs also offers contract research to evaluate IPM compatible materials including their effect on biological control agents.

They have listed ten common pests on their website. On specifically going and reading about each listed pest, one gets the information about the pest and how it causes damage to plant growth. Bugs for Bugs gives further specific solutions against these pests. Not surprisingly, these mainly include non-chemical options.

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## SUSTAINABILITY SOLUTIONS FAR AND WIDE



The premise of newly released [Small is Necessary: Shared Living on a Shared Planet](#) by Anitra Nelson (2018, Pluto Press, London) aligns well with HOPE Australia's mission statement. The book reviews international cases of eco-collaborative housing in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe.

'Eco-collaborative housing' is resident-driven low impact development with shared facilities and activities, such as environmentally concerned joint/shared houses and land (on which households interact to support one another and share resources), eco-cohousing, ecovillages, and intentionally sustainable squats and communes.

The 'small' in *Small is Necessary* has as much to do with small ecological footprints as size but emphasises the strong links between the two. At least living in smaller spaces than the average Australian is a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for us attaining one planet lifestyles.

Shared living is a way of economising on space, given we ended the twentieth century with average households almost half their size at the start of the century (2.5: 4.5). Shrinking household sizes and growing dwelling sizes have added up to an environmental recipe for disaster. In this sense, *Small is Necessary* simply advocates a return to historical norms.

Sharing resources and energy within shared spaces is a way of reducing consumption of resources, energy and carbon emissions. Sharing increases community and conviviality — lost arts in increasingly alienated urban lifestyles. With today's housing affordability at crisis levels, small and sharing also offer ways of economising on building, retrofitting and operating costs.

The book not only highlights cases that have strong environmental criteria and outcomes but also are successfully organised — many established decades ago and still thriving — and structured around affordability in the build, design and maintenance (operating) stages.

Examples from Australia include [Christie Walk](#) (Adelaide) and [Round the Bend Conservation Co-operative](#) on the peri-urban edge of Melbourne. [Murundaka](#) (2011–) is another great example of eco-cohousing.

Owned by Common Equity Housing Limited, Murundaka is effectively self-managed and governed by its community of low-income tenants (social/public housing), who pay around 25 percent of their income to live there. The housing apartment block cost several million dollars but benefited from a federal stimulus grant in its response to the global financial crisis.

Murundaka's 18 variously sized dwellings house singles through to families, each with a small kitchen, and bathroom as well as living space and bedrooms. They share laundry facilities, a common kitchen, dining, living/meeting area as well as guest rooms, office, workshop, tool storage and recycling spaces.

In 2014 the Murundaka community embarked on an Energy Freedom project to reduce their energy use and transition to all non-renewable energy sources. Today they generate all their electricity on site using solar panels, have reduced their energy use by 25 per cent and halved their energy costs. They are progressing to address their residual gas use.

Murundaka's ['vision' or mission statement](#) emphasises cooperation through 'respect, compassion and support'; they both 'aim high and forgive each other when we fall short'. They pay their respects to their Indigenous elders. Their ideals support the first and foremost point, as follow:

- We live sustainably: Conscious of ourselves, our local community, the world and our legacy for the future through our individual and collective actions.
- We live with integrity: Balancing rights and responsibilities and behaving with authenticity.
- We are self-reflective and outward looking: Curious, courageous, collaborative, valuing the cohesion of the group and the wisdom of all.
- We are part of our broader communities: Learning from and engaging in dialogue and action.
- We have fun: Encouraging trust and harmony through play, spontaneity and creativity.

There are many inspiring cases in *Small is Necessary*, such as [Los Angeles Eco-Village](#) (US) and [ufaFabrik](#) (Berlin). Many cases show that eco-collaborative housing faces unnecessary and counterproductive challenges from planning and financial sectors, especially in Australia, but is likely to become part of the rich tapestry of sustainability solutions for our uncertain future.

*(Anitra Nelson is an activist-scholar affiliated with the Centre for Urban Research at RMIT University, Melbourne. Besides her [Small is Necessary: Shared Living on a Shared Planet](#) (2018, Pluto Press, London), she has co-edited [Housing for Degrowth: Principles, Models, Challenges and Opportunities](#), which will be released by Routledge (London) in the Australian Spring 2018. Read more about Anitra's activities and publications here — <https://anitranelson.info/>)*

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## National News



### Colgate Community Garden Challenge

Right now, Australian kids and students have the chance to win a recycled community garden set by diverting tens of thousands of oral care products from landfill, thanks to a recycling competition run by Colgate, Chemist Warehouse and TerraCycle.

Between 23 March and 31 October 2018, the Colgate Community Garden Challenge invites pre-, primary and secondary schools nationwide to collect all brands of oral care waste and send it to TerraCycle, who will give the waste a second life by creating new products.

Five recycled community garden sets will be awarded to five schools, with each set including three garden beds, two custom-made benches, one rubbish bin and one sign, plus a \$500 gardening voucher to buy seeds and plants. Besides showing how recycled materials can be used as a sustainable alternative to virgin plastic, the sets will help promote gardening and healthy eating among schools.

Visit [www.terracycle.com.au/colgategarden](http://www.terracycle.com.au/colgategarden) to join the competition, access resources and watch your competition ranking on a digital leaderboard! And remember to get your community to vote online for you every day at [www.terracycle.com/colgategardenvoting](http://www.terracycle.com/colgategardenvoting).

Liz Keen - Public Relations Manager, TerraCycle Australia & New Zealand  
AU: 02 8667 9262 | [www.terracycle.com.au](http://www.terracycle.com.au) | NZ: 0800 474 016 | [www.terracycle.co.nz](http://www.terracycle.co.nz)

## World News



### Climate Advocacy International

– [www.climateadvocacy.org](http://www.climateadvocacy.org)

Climate Advocacy International (CAI) is a youth driven **not-for-profit & non-governmental organization** established by a group of experts in various sectors and it is committed to providing both social and advisory services to people, societies in need and its valued clients. It is engaging in activities that **support, promote and enhance sustainable development** and **provide practical solutions** to the real-world problems, and this in turn increases the sustainability of the nature. The organization mainly advocates and works in various aspects of climate change, clean energy, green growth, eco-innovation, cleaner production, clean water & sanitation, food and forest, environmental sustainability, corporate social responsibility, resilient society, social justices, capacity building and knowledge sharing. It is also a platform for empowering youth and women and mainstreaming them in climate change and sustainable development activities. CAI works with governments, intergovernmental agencies, development partners, public and private sectors, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs and local people to ensure sustainability is at the heart of economic and social development.

Assisting societies and countries on achieving their goals of economic prosperity, social harmony and environmental sustainability through promotion of low-carbon green growth and application of innovative solutions to the real-world problems without jeopardizing natural carrying capacity is its mission. CAI has set forth eighteen strategic initiatives to fulfil its objectives and some of them are; Green Energy for All (**GE4ALL**), Toilet for All (**Toilet4All**), Safe Drinking Water for All (**SDW4All**), Kids, Youth and Environment (**KEY**), Waste to Wealth (**W2W**), **Green Living**, CDM Hub, Carbon Finance Initiatives (**CFI**), Climate Documentary (**ClimeDoc**), **Climate Congress (CC)**, Business-Energy-Climate Change Nexus (**BECN**). CAI is currently working in Nepal only and it aims to expand in other countries and region in future so that the global goal of low-carbon green economic development can be achieved by promoting concerned activities locally in many countries. It is highly **eager to partner with international organizations, agencies, academia, businesses and governments** to share knowledge and to explore funding opportunities to successfully accomplish its ambitious mission.

Among other, CAI is now on the mission to provide clean cook stoves to poor families in rural areas and to end the painful situation “**cooking kills**” by substituting traditional cooking stoves which about **3.7 million families in Nepal are still compelled to use** due to mainly poor financial condition and lack of awareness. CAI believes UN Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without active participation of people from every walk of life so it has recently launched an initiative named “**SDG Club**” ([www.sdqclub.org](http://www.sdqclub.org) – webpage is yet to be developed) and it aims to reach at least **10 million members representing each country in the Earth** in next five years. To maximize the output and ensure chances of achieving SDGs, CAI would like to request every individual and every organization to be a member of this club and contribute what you can in this precious mission. Please feel free to write Mr. Dharma K.C, Executive Director of CAI, at [kcdharma@climateadvocacy.org](mailto:kcdharma@climateadvocacy.org) if you have any query.

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## Queensland News



### **Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary** - <https://currumbinsanctuary.com.au/>

Explore this iconic Gold Coast Wildlife Sanctuary. Immerse yourself into the wonder and natural beauty of 27 hectares of Currumbin rainforest, wandering through open animal enclosures, feeding Kangaroos and cuddling koalas along the way. Experience the wild lorikeet feeding, free flight bird shows and aboriginal performances. With huge outdoor themed playground, Wild Island, there is plenty of entertainment for kids to enjoy as they tour the sanctuary on a miniature train. Lost Valley a new exotic precinct opened on Boxing Day 2018. Featuring 5 hectares of stunning rainforest, Lost Valley takes you on a journey through the ancient supercontinent Gondwana. Explore a forgotten world and get up close and personal with some of the world's most unique and distinctive flora and wildlife including friendly Lemurs, Cotton-top tamarins, Red pandas, Capybaras along with free-flying birds, exotic reptiles



Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is a not-for-profit organisation and reinvests all proceeds back into wildlife and conservation programs.

**Open:** 7 days a week, from 8am to 5pm

**Location:** 28 Tomewin St, Currumbin Queensland 4223 Australia

**Local Call:** (07) 5534 1266

**Email:** [enquiries@cws.org.au](mailto:enquiries@cws.org.au)

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### **Local “Citizen Science” undertaking with Toowoomba Bird Observers Inc.**



Toowoomba Bird Observers is looking for more people to join the Club, to participate in “citizen science” of recording birds sighted in particular areas; and, for the pure enjoyment of sharing bird observing activities.

Why the Club? We exist simply because we enjoy a common passion, BIRDS. Many of us are particularly interested in birds found locally, so a local club suits our needs perfectly.

We provide a means for birders to meet and share their experiences through our outings, monthly newsletters, and Facebook.

Birdwatching is a healthy, outdoors activity that's always interesting and rewarding. Investing in a pair of binoculars, field guide and linking with kindred spirits will lead to a lifetime of enjoyment as you become more aware of the birds around you. We cater for all ages, and all levels of experiences. And, we enjoy it!

The Management Committee hold bi-monthly meetings (Feb, April, June, August, October, December) on the first Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Dr. Price Rooms, Little Street, Toowoomba. Anyone can come to these meetings.

We have outings on the last weekend of each month, either Saturday or Sunday. We run a variety of outings to suit everyone's taste. Most of the outings are local with some others further afield, sometimes staying overnight. Some regular venues include Ravensbourne National Park, Lockyer Valley wetlands, Bunya Mountains, Highfields Falls, and Toowoomba's escarpment parks.

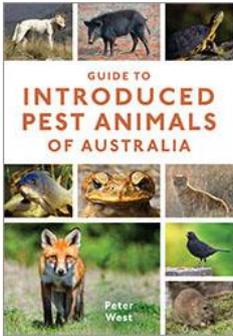
Once a year we usually do a *wader* outing. We also conduct a Raptor Census in June, and local species census in October during which we try to cover the entire local survey area, recording as many species as we can. Our local survey area is made up of 20 grids, which all fall within approximately 20 km of Toowoomba City. The area takes in Carbarlah, Highfields, Murphys Creek, Helidon, Flagstone Creek, Withcott, Ramsay, Cambooya, Kingsthorpe, Gowrie Junction and Meringandan.

Members receive a monthly newsletter by email (colour) to keep them up to date with the coming events/outings, bird sightings, etc. The newsletter is also for sharing birding experiences, photographs and reporting on previous outings and events.

For further information contact Secretary Col Hughes by mob: 0409 058 275 or email: [colinhughes646@gmail.com](mailto:colinhughes646@gmail.com) | Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/toowoombabirdobservers>

## Resources

CSIRO Publications - <http://www.publish.csiro.au/>

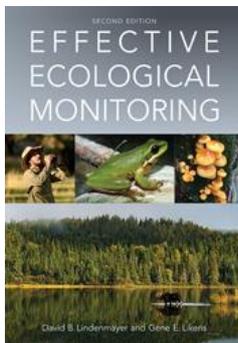


### GUIDE TO INTRODUCED PEST ANIMALS OF AUSTRALIA

By Peter West

A practical guide for the identification of introduced pest animals and management information.

Australia's introduced vertebrate pest species cost at least \$1 billion annually in economic, environmental and social impacts. The *Guide to Introduced Pest Animals of Australia* is a comprehensive, practical guide to 60 introduced pest animal species present in Australia, including 27 mammals, 18 birds, nine freshwater fish, two amphibians and four reptiles. It contains descriptive information to identify each species in the field, including distinctive physical characteristics, size, weight, colouration, diet, breeding behaviour, habitat preferences, and information about footprints, dung, scats and audible animal calls.



### EFFECTIVE ECOLOGICAL MONITORING (Second Edition)

By David Lindenmayer, Gene Likens

This fully revised second edition illustrates key aspects of effective monitoring.

Long-term monitoring programs are fundamental to understanding the natural environment and managing major environmental problems. Yet they are often done very poorly and ineffectively. This second edition of the highly acclaimed *Effective Ecological Monitoring* describes what makes monitoring programs successful and how to ensure that long-term monitoring studies persist.

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## Interesting Websites

By Miriam Sharp, HOPE member Qld



**Caritas Australia** - <http://www.caritas.org.au/learn/global-poverty-issues>

Caritas is an organisation that looks at the causes and effects poverty and injustice around the world. Its programs target a number of key issues that underpin human development and lead to and/or have an effect on poverty, such as food security and agriculture, disaster risks and climate change. This webpage explores those issues

in detail and describes the associated Caritas response, and how you can assist the programs.



**Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE)** - <http://bze.org.au>

BZE is an internationally recognised network of scientists, engineers, economists and other experts who conduct extensive research on climate change and offer solutions and planning for future action on climate change in all sectors of the economy. This website is a hub for all those that are interested in the science of and research into climate change and want to educate themselves further on impacts and solutions and encourage others to do the same. You can find publications, listen to podcasts and join in discussion groups.



**World Health Organisation (WHO)** - <http://www.who.int/globalchange/en/>

Climate change is an immediate and potentially significant threat to global health. This website provides a lot of background information on these issues and environment-related health programs that the WHO undertakes. WHO also develops discussion papers, guidance documents and recommendations in (international) discussions and negotiations on health and climate change. You can find these on the website, together with WHO mandate papers, policy positions and action plans on health and climate change.