



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #07 --- July 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Good morning folks,

This month's Office Report is required reading as it contains both good and bad news about HOPE's current state of affairs (page 2).

Also, I suggest that you scrutinize the Events Calendar below to see what events you can actively support and/or participate in.

Regards,

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

2018 National/International Events Calendar

- [2018 – International Year of Coral Reefs](#)
- [2014-2024 – International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)

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](#)
- 22 **HOPE information display at U3A Toowoomba's "Seniors Expo"**
- TBC [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

September

- [National Biodiversity Month](#)
 - 1 [National Wattle Day](#)
 - TBC [Sea Week](#)
 - TBC [National Landcare Week](#)
 - 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
 - 8 **HOPE (quarterly) Ordinary Meeting**
 - 15 [World Cleanup Day](#)
 - 10 [National Bilby Day](#)
 - 16 [Sustainable House Day](#)
 - 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
 - TBC [Bushcare's Major Day Out – BMDO](#)
 - 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
 - 29 [World Maritime Day](#)
-

HOPE News --- July 2018

Good morning,

This office report reviews the previous month of June and looks forward to events and activities through to September.

First the bad news. In early June, we experienced problems with MS Office software which culminated in 2 weeks computer down time and the corruption of our e: address book. The cost of the repairs, coupled with some other unforeseen expenses, has left us financially drained!

Therefore, we are seeking your financial support to ensure our immediate future for the next 12 months or so. Donations may be made online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>, else please contact me by phone 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au if you wish to donate by for other means.

On the bright side, the Management Committee is progressing well with our application to the Federal Department of Environment for listing on the "Register of Environmental Organisations". This listing will afford us "Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and enable us to formally seek donations.

Mr Derek Tuffield OAM, CEO of Lifeline Darling Downs & South-West Qld and Dr Mark Copland, EO of Social Justice Commission, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba and Ms Rhonda Munro of Rhonda's Bookkeeping have agreed to administer our Public Fund account.

Extra benefits of having DGR status are:

- *the opportunity to seek corporate sponsorship; and*
- *access to a greater range of grants.*

Once our application has been approved, we will initiate national donation and sponsorship campaigns to attract funding to cover our annual operating expenses and enable us to more effectively promote new projects, events and activities.

HOPE's Ordinary Meeting held on 16 June covered several key areas including:

- *computer problems;*
- *finances;*
- *reports on recently held community forums;*
- *outcome of 5 project grant applications – all unsuccessful; and*
- *proposed projects (which includes some lapsed, unsuccessful and new proposals).*

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting will shortly be available on our website at http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/home/hope-news/#ON_COM_1718.

Regards,

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

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 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 or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Feature Articles

WILL PLASTIC BAGS BE BANNED IN CHILE?

By Richard Pérez-Mongard, a freelance translator living in Chile

https://www.linkedin.com/profile/preview?vpa=pub&locale=en_US | <http://www.sinclavos.cl>



In the following months Chile might become the first country in South America to ban plastic shopping bags in all its territory, if an enacted bill doesn't get buried for the umpteenth time in the legislature. I will try to describe how we got here.

History

Just like plastics are a very recent invention, around the end of the 19th century, plastic shopping bags did not see life till half way through the 20th century. However, they grew in popularity at an enormous pace and have us all so addicted to their use that breaking this habit might be more difficult than quitting smoking. The following are some milestones with banning plastic shopping bags throughout the world.

Denmark (1994) was the first country to introduce a ban on plastic shopping bags in the form of a bag tax. [http://www.ecocouncil.dk/documents/temasider/1776-150812-tax-on-](http://www.ecocouncil.dk/documents/temasider/1776-150812-tax-on-plastic-bags)

[plastic-bags](#)

Bhutan (1999) was the first country in the world to create a ruling to ban plastics, including plastic shopping bags, but due to lack of resources has never been able to enforce its rules.

Bangladesh banned plastic shopping bags in January 2002. Since 1990 people started demanding a ban following a campaign by the Environment and Social Development Organization-ESDO, because it was estimated that these bags contributed to the important flooding event occurred in 1989. Again in 1998 two thirds of the country was underwater due to flooding, activating the Government's attention into the ban. In 2002 India followed suit for the same reasons: flooding.

Other countries leading the way were Ireland (2002), Taiwan (January 2003), South Africa (May 2003), Rwanda (2004), Eritrea (2005), Somalia (2005) and Tanzania (2005). The first cities to ban plastic bags in the Americas were the Manitoba's mining town Leaf Rapids and San Francisco (USA) in March 2007.

At the same time in the UK, Rebecca Hosking, a BBC filmmaker was situating her crushing experience in Hawaii as a direct witness of the effects of plastics on wildlife; and started a campaign against plastic bags in her hometown. Modbury was the first town in the UK to completely ban plastic bags (May 2007).

In Chile

In Chile, before 2005, all public discussion around plastic bags was that they were a danger for small children, that they can obstruct sewers and that they were not absorbed by nature and might survive us all for hundreds of years. There was no public awareness of the effects they had or could have on wildlife. Knowledge of these effects was just starting to flow out of scientific and academic circles¹, although ingestion of or entanglement with plastic debris by marine life has been reported as far back as the 1970s². Not only plastic bags were not prohibited, but instead, most municipalities enforced the use of plastic bags, of any kind, when discarding residential wastes³.

Thanks to the dissemination of awareness and pressure carried out by NGOs and also thanks to the Internet, its ability to disseminate awareness of campaigns in other parts of the world, together with an increased concern with the environment, some individuals in the public started campaigning against plastic bags⁴. The need to separate wastes and recycle many of its components, started growing in awareness and in practical actions, at an individual level. This growing public concern with the environment plus the work of NGOs and social movements provided a solid foundation or platform from which a structural change could take place, regarding political strategies towards a modern environmental policy. This is when Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, candidate to the 2006 presidential elections agreed to include, as part of her program, a series of environmental commitments held with the most prominent NGOs at the time. This was the *Acuerdo de Chagual*, November 2005. During Mrs. Bachelet's presidency, those NGOs who had supported her tenure broke all ties when she took actions that not only didn't comply with the agreement but were opposed to the agreement⁵.

Around 2007 some department stores started offering so-called biodegradable bags (which we later discovered were made of fragmentary material, which is not better than what they would replace), others started offering a

variety of bags made of truly organic materials. Offering environmentally friendly products was starting to be a good business idea.

We must accept that getting rid of plastic bags was not one of the main commitments of the *Acuerdo de Chagual*, however, in August 2008, the head of the Chilean environmental agency (*Ministerio del Medio Ambiente*), Mrs. Ana Lya Uriarte, Greenpeace-Chile and the Senator Nelson Ávila, launched a campaign into voluntarily replacing plastic shopping bags for biodegradable alternatives. Concurrently a bill was enacted to ban plastic bags throughout the country. As far as I can recall, this was the first top-down initiative into eliminating plastic shopping bags in Chile. The only problem is, it never went into force. New bills and amendments were introduced in later years, but all of them died during the legislative stage.

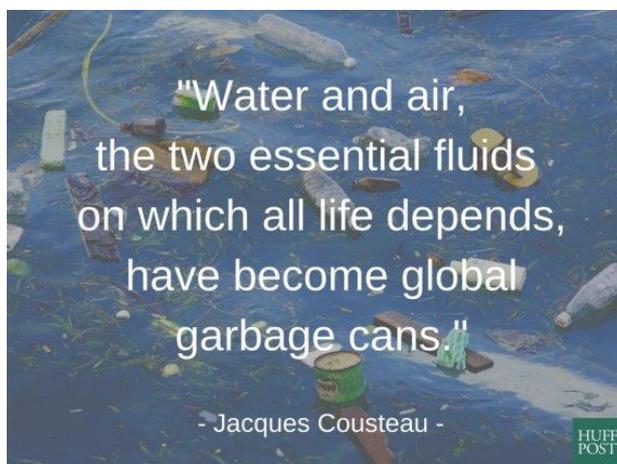
In 2014 the city of *Pucón* was the first one in Chile to create a local ruling banning plastic shopping bags. The process started by reducing the number of bags allowed from 3 per user on December 2013 to none on December 2014. From then on other municipalities have been issuing similar rulings. Today, of a total of 354 municipalities in all the country there are about 60 with rulings that ban plastic shopping bags. However, the Chilean auditor general (the *Contraloría General de la República*, in Spanish) has annulled these local rulings due to an unconstitutionality⁶.

In 2017, the President Michelle Bachelet, in her second tenure, enacted a new bill banning plastic shopping bags in seashore municipalities, including a procedure to certify which alternatives are truly biodegradable.

In 2018, President Sebastián Piñera modified that bill to extend the ban to all municipalities throughout the country. If it passes legislature, it should come into force in 2019 or 2020.

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4. Individual actions (in Spanish)
2008
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCOVy-Q8Hcg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQW-xAHSXe8>
2009
<http://www.freewebs.com/cisnes/Por%20que%20NO.htm>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpVbTY2huQA>
5. Acuerdo de Chagual (in Spanish)
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6. Decision by the Chilean auditor general (in Spanish)
<http://www.contraloria.cl/appinf/LegisJuri%5Cboletinjurisprudencia.nsf/DetalleDictamenBoletin?OpenForm&UNID=5E001E80E06F931E84257D8F00555C18>





“Advancing innovation for the new plastics economy”

--- Think Beyond Plastic <https://www.thinkbeyondplastic.com/>

By Roslyn Kumar, HOPE member Qld

What’s New in Innovation Challenge

The successful 2017 Think Beyond Plastic *Innovation Challenge* in partnership with UN Environment had inspired young inventors. Think Beyond Plastic and UN Environment *Innovation Challenge* is designed to encourage university students to showcase their innovative engineering and direct investment in solutions to solve marine plastic litter problem, with focus on circular material, circular design and innovative packaging.

United Nations new report shows that from the year 2012 there has been a 23 per cent increase in the total number of marine species negatively affected by micro-plastics. It is clear, that now is the time for action to address this growing catastrophe through Think Beyond Plastic Innovation. <https://www.thinkbeyondplastic.com/> .

Projects under development

In Australia, taking into account the steady increase of plastic production, CSIRO has predicted that by year 2050 there would be 95 per cent increase in plastic ingestion in seabird of all species in the Tasman Sea. If we take a walk on any of the worlds beaches, the measure of plastic marine debris is unbelievable. After a storm surge, the scale of washed up marine debris on the shores of smaller island nations, is staggering! Plastic debris does have a sobering effect on marine life; it has a greater impact on small island countries’ economies and community livelihoods. Tourism and fisheries are the backbone of smaller islands. Mesoamerican Reef(MAR) Plastic Reduction Initiative is inviting Innovative community to come up with a viable business plan to assist small island communities.

Projects are underway on American Bay islands of Honduras and other areas of Mesoamerican Reef communities. Follow the Projects Updated on the [Mesoamerican Reef Plastic Reduction initiative portal](#)

To apply for the UN Environment “Think Beyond Plastic Collaboration Innovation Challenge” please refer to <https://marineplasticinnovationchallenge-engineeringdesign2017.startupcompete.co/> .

For general information on Think Beyond Plastic go to <https://www.thinkbeyondplastic.com/> .

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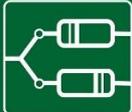
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World News



International Union for Conservation of Nature (<https://www.iucn.org/>)

IUCN comprises both government and civil society organisations. With its vast network of resources and available tools it has worked towards its mission to conserve nature and to ensure equitable and sustainable use of natural resources.

Initially established in 1948 as IUPN (International Union for Protection of Nature), the organisation had 65 members and worked in close association with UNESCO. It was only in 1956 that the organisation changed its name to IUCN. Today, the organisation has approximately 1,300 member organisations and 6 commissions. The Commissions work together with volunteer experts on different areas and provide advice on sustainability, environmental law, ecosystem management, protection of marine areas and much more. The area of work of each of these commissions can be studied in detail here <https://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions>.

The principal governing body of IUCN is its council. The 2016-2020 Council is composed of a President, four Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, the Chairs of IUCN's six Commissions, 28 Regional Councillors, a Councillor from Switzerland and one additional appointed Councillor. The next council meeting is scheduled to take place from 8 October 2018 in Jeju, Korea. For more information please visit <https://www.iucn.org/about/union/council>.

Since its inception, the organisation has played a fundamental role in protection of endangered species and habitats and has also established the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. They have also been instrumental in creation of many international conventions including Ramsar (wetlands) Convention (1971), World Heritage Convention (1972), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, (1974) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). IUCN also collaborates with multi-national companies (MNCs) across the globe like Nespresso, Shell Petroleum and Rio Tinto to promote sustainable use of natural resources.

The current IUCN Programme 2017-2020 recognizes three priority areas:

1. Valuing and conserving nature,
2. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources, and
3. Deploying nature-based solutions to societal challenges.

Over the years the organisation has published a wide range of reports, guidelines, documents and database relating to conservation and sustainable development. These cover assessments on ecosystems, environmental law, biodiversity, briefs on deforestation and climate change, statutory and corporate documents, monitoring and evaluation policies and vast number of publications.

Every four years, IUCN World Conservation Congress is held in which leaders from different part's of the world and from different fields participate to debate on important environmental issues and challenges and to discuss actions to address them. The next IUCN Congress will be held in 2020 in Marseille, France. Information on the previous IUCN Congress held in 2016 can be accessed here <https://2016congress.iucn.org/>.

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National News



THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL - <https://invasives.org.au/>

By Alessio Claudi, HOPE volunteer Qld

The Invasive Species Council is a not-for-profit charitable organisation with a board of about 200 members and over 2,000 supporters. The organisation is incorporated in Victoria and registered with the Australian government as a charitable institution and a tax-deductible gift recipient (The Invasive Species Council).

Their mission is the protection of the environment through initiatives to eradicate, limit, and control invasive species in Australia. The arrival of Europeans in Australia meant also the introduction of animals and plants that seriously affected the Australian environment.

They point out that Australia has the worst mammal extinction record in the world, due mainly to invasive species like foxes and feral cats. Most people are not aware of this, or other ongoing threats to the Australian environment. These issues, if not dealt with, could lead to permanent loss of parts of the ecosystem, and that is why the action of the Invasive Species Council have a particular relevance, both in terms of informing people, and hopefully guiding them to have an increasingly active role toward the goal of environmental preservation.

The Invasive Species Council has four main objectives:

- Facilitating eradication of recent mainland arrivals and invasive species from offshore islands.
- Lobbying for government-led containment strategies for emerging pests such as feral deer and horses.
- Supporting targeted control measures underpinned by science.
- Promoting the 'general biosecurity obligation'.

The organisation has on its website very interesting fact sheets in regard to invasive animals and plants, and their impact on the environment. Moreover, they also have a blog, *The Feral Herald*, which offers a wide range of contributions to learn more, and have an in-depth view on local issues, as well as on local debates in regard to the themes that are important for this organisation.

Through their numerous projects, such as Protect Australia and the Stand up for Kosciuszko National Park initiative, the organisation asks their followers to act, and to work as an interest group to get the attention of politicians, both local and national. Interest groups have achieved great results in the past in Australia, and the Invasive Species Council's efforts toward a better environment, and a strong action toward invasive species, is something which is in the interest of everybody.

Another important section of their website is the "How we got started" one, in which they write about their background, and how they formed. Alternately, the "Act now" section showcases the current issues, and how to get involved. Yet again, being able to create a vast group of people able to be heard by the politicians is one of the key aims of this organisation, because this would have a real impact on environmental issues.

Being a charitable association, The Invasive Species Council welcomes donations, and support to continue their work.

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

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Queensland News

Annette McFarlane- helping you to build a successful garden

By Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD



Annette McFarlane wears many hats- a teacher, garden writer, author and broadcaster; however, she is and always was a gardener first.

If you have been gardening, chances are you already knew about her either through her various books (Successful Gardening in Warm Climates, Organic Vegetable Gardening, Organic Fruit Growing, Gardening Australia's Love Your Garden), her Saturday Talk-show on Radio ABC 612 Brisbane, or through personal interactions during her gardening shows and workshops.

But if you are thinking about picking up gardening (which is proven to help reduce stress and anxiety, and improve a person's physical and mental health), look no further. Let Annette- also the Ambassador for [Garden Releaf 2018](#)- be your inspiration to start today!

(Picture taken from Annette's website)

A colourful page splashed with photos along with "Question of the week" posts greets you as you open up [Annette's homepage](#). Her website is a treasure trove for gardeners of all levels; from her personal gallery of her gardening progress, to recipes- these are some of the tabs you will find as she shares information and knowledge about how anyone can be a gardener throughout the year and enjoy the fruit of their labour. The events and links pages have exhaustive information so any gardener can stay up-to-date about gardening initiatives within the state; and be part of events where Annette will educate her audience about gardening.



The past March, Annette McFarlane was inducted into Gold Laurel 'Hall of Fame'. This honourable award is only given every 2 years to horticultural media personalities who have made outstanding contributions to gardening.

Even if you cannot make it to her sharing sessions, you can benefit from her easily accessible wealth of knowledge about gardening which is also demonstrated in expansive tabs online; categories such as "What's Bugging You" and FAQs (where readers can also upload pictures and send in their questions where Annette will answer) help everyone to get better at gardening. Annette is also available for booking for staff training and numerous occasions pertaining to gardening.

Listen in to Annette on Talkback ABC Radio 612 Brisbane from 6 to 7 am every Saturday, as she shares her knowledge and stories about gardening. You can also follow her on social media ([here](#) on Facebook, or @global_gardener on Instagram) to stay inspired as a gardener.

Resources

Interesting Websites

By Roslyn Kumar, HOPE member Qld



Food Connect <https://www.foodconnect.com.au/>.

“Local. Seasonal. Ecological Food Direct from Your Farmer.”

Brisbane farmer, Robert Pekin founded the Food Connect social enterprise “for fairer food” system in 2005. Over the past 10 years, Food Connects powerful core values have had a positive impact on over 1,500 Brisbane families. This initiative connects local farmers and the community to get access to ecological food, making a real difference in our health, local economy and the environment. This website will be especially helpful to those busy people, who want to eat and live healthily.

The online store offers wide range of locally produced fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, dairy and groceries, with easy online ordering and recipe ideas.

For further details, newsletters, events, FAQs, links and contacts, go to their website at, <https://www.foodconnect.com.au/>.



Intrepid Landcare - <https://intrepidlandcare.org/>

In 1986, Heather Mitchell and Joan Kirner, with the help of the local community, were able to launch ‘Landcare’ in central Victoria. Today, there are 5,500 groups nationally working together to make a difference. Intrepid Landcare, is an online movement that empowers and connects passionate youths with their community members, farmers, departmental officers and organisations to restore and sustainably manage Australia’s natural environment and its productivity. Learn more about live training and projects, services,

news and events by visiting <https://intrepidlandcare.org/> .

For further information, on how to get directly involved with Landcare Tribe and for volunteer Registration Form, visit their webpage <https://intrepidlandcare.org/get-involved/start-a-tribe/> .



Climate Change: Impacts and Responses Research Network - <http://on-climate.com/>

Founded in 2009, the **Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network** was brought together by a common concern for the science of, and social responses to, climate change. The website is the platform for people from all walks of life to share their work, discuss key issues in the field and build relationships with peers. There are a variety of presentation options and session types that can be used to present your work at the International Conference on Climate Change: Impact & Responses.

For further information on registration, special events, latest news visit <http://on-climate.com/> .

Full online access to journal and books is provided with [membership](#).