



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #08 --- August 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,

Hello and welcome to another edition of the HOPE newsletter. Please feel free to share this newsletter with family, friends and colleagues.

Regards,

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

2018 National/International Events Calendar

August

- 9 [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 11-19 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- **22 HOPE information display at Toowoomba U3A'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 Ordinary Meeting**
- 15 [World Cleanup Day](#)
- 10 [National Bilby Day](#)
- 16 [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 29 [World Maritime Day](#)

October

- 2 [World Habitat Day](#)
 - 3-4 [All Energy 2018 conference](#)
 - 4-10 [World Space Week](#)
 - 5 [National Walk to Work Day](#)
 - TBC [National Ride 2 Work Day](#)
 - 16 [World Food Day](#)
 - 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
 - TBC [Bird Week](#)
 - 22-28 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
 - TBC [National Water Week](#)
 - 24 [United Nations Day](#)
-

HOPE News --- August 2018

Good morning,

With the 2017-2018 financial end of year upon us, we've been busy reviewing our accounts in readiness for the auditor's review and approval.

The good news is that all the paperwork seems to be in order.
The bad news is that our funds are very low indeed!

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.

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.

Current volunteer positions available are:

- Researchers – required to review and comment on a range of discussion papers, policy documents and reports provided by government departments, business and industry organisations and NGOs.
 - Media Officers – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
 - Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets
 - Newsletter Editor – required to write and/or source articles and other items for compilation into monthly E: News Bulletin
 - Social Media Assistant – required to source and post suitable 'environmental' content items regularly on HOPE's Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - Website Content Maintenance Assistant – required to perform weekly updates and routine maintenance as provided by Office Manager
-

Letter to the Editor

Dear HOPE,

RE: INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE

Hi everybody.... and welcome to mid-winter... brrrrrr!!

2018 is the International Year of the Reef, (<https://www.icriforum.org/about-icri/iyor>). It is hoped that this Initiative will bring recognition to the reefs by all people from all around the world.

So, as householders, what can we do about the reef? Many of us live inland and do not have much to do with the sea, so how can we help?

Well, there are organisations helping the environment all around the world such as 'World Wildlife Foundation', 'Greenpeace', 'Planet Ark', etc. that you can donate to. There is one organisation that I would really like to mention to you and that is 'Earthwatch' (<http://au.earthwatch.org/>).

Earthwatch has 50 projects going on and the projects include reef studies too. The amazing thing about Earthwatch is that they enlist the help of volunteers into all their projects. As a Volunteer in these projects, you will be taught basic scientific data collection methods by scientists. When a volunteer is involved in marine research there are different ways to collect data. Collecting data around Mangroves involves getting muddy. Mangroves are important as these areas stabilize the mouths of creeks/rivers(estuaries) and are also breeding grounds and habitats for juvenile fishes. A mangrove ecosystem is extremely complex in its nature.

Now, for our International Year of the Reef, volunteering to collect data can involve snorkeling and/or SCUBA diving. Either of these 2 activities is an absolute BLAST!!!! As a marine biologist I have been involved in both activities as a Uni student. The Earthwatch website (<http://au.earthwatch.org/>) has details of all the volunteer projects available, not only overseas but in Australia too. If you have teenage kids, there are projects they can be involved with as well while you are snorkeling or diving on a reef.

As these projects involve a certain amount of time, the Reef/Marine projects are best to be involved with when you have a vacation. At present there are 3 marine expeditions to volunteer with in Australia. These are in Ningaloo (Manta Rays), Orpheus Island(reefs) and Moreton Bay (Whales or seagrass beds). All details are on the Earthwatch website (<http://au.earthwatch.org/>).

Steve Gribble, HOPE member Qld



Feature Articles

Freshwater Discovery

By Nancy Washburne, USA



As a certified scuba diver, I have experienced some of the most spectacular underwater locations on earth, such as the Red Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, Truk Lagoon, Palau, Papua, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, Fiji, Grand Cayman, Bonaire, Cozumel, and other Caribbean islands. However, I was not aware of the magical world that exists just below the surface of our magnificent inland lakes and rivers in my home state of Michigan.

In 1992 when my son was 12, he asked to go camping, an experience no one in our family had ever had. My husband did not want to spend the night in a tent, but I told my son I would be glad to accompany him if I could take my snorkel and mask and explore Michigan's inland lakes. It came as a big surprise in a state called a "water wonderland" that there was no information available from any source on which lakes were best to snorkel. The DNR and Michigan State's Fisheries and Wildlife Department knew the water chemistry and what fish were there, but from a recreational point of view, there was nothing. It was soon easy to see why---most people snorkeled in the Caribbean, Mexico or Hawaii---there was little or no interest or even any belief that Michigan's inland lakes had anything to offer.

Initially, I thought this was probably because either the lakes were murky or there was nothing to see in shallow water. Indeed, the first few lakes I sampled were total losers, but then I got on a roll, and the next lakes were clear, colorful and full of excitement. When I saw the infinite variety, I realized that a sampling of lakes would not do; I would not be satisfied or have the necessary knowledge until I checked them all. Since I was not allowed to enter private lakes, this immediately eliminated 10,000 lakes from my list. Still I was left with approximately 1000 public access lakes to explore. Snorkeling them all was a daunting task-- I was a soggy mess for over 5 years until I finished the project in the fall of 1997, but the discoveries I made have made me a dedicated fresh water snorkeler.

I realized that we have been blessed with these magnificent resources, and it is our duty to preserve them for future generations in their most pristine form. I want our children to be exposed to this magical world. Once they know it, they will love it; and once they love it, they will protect it. I believe in the virtuous circle of exploration, education and conservation; and that is why I have dedicated the last quarter of a century of my life to educate people about the underwater wonders of our freshwater inland lakes and rivers in Michigan; hoping that this will inspire people to do the same all over the world.



After 24 years of field research, snorkeling over one thousand Michigan inland lakes, dozens of rivers, and taking over 700 hours of underwater video, I launched a new website to share with people this magical underwater world. At www.snorkelmichigan.com, you will eventually be able to observe firsthand 49 different species of fish and turtles being themselves in their natural habitat, getting up close and personal with nature. At this stage we already have 4 videos posted.

Direct observation is one of the major sources of empirical knowledge. When we consider that approximately 71% of our world is underwater, we realize the importance of snorkeling as a tool to learn about fish diversity, behavioral biology, underwater flora identification, and conservation, not to mention the great fun of experiencing nature's spontaneous events.

The beauty of this concept is that it applies to the entire demographic spectrum, starting with the educational benefits for children and young kids, to the fabulous therapeutic and recreational benefits for adults and senior citizens. "If you can breathe you can snorkel."

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."
– Gaylor Nelson

World News



The voice of Asia Pacific's sustainable business community:

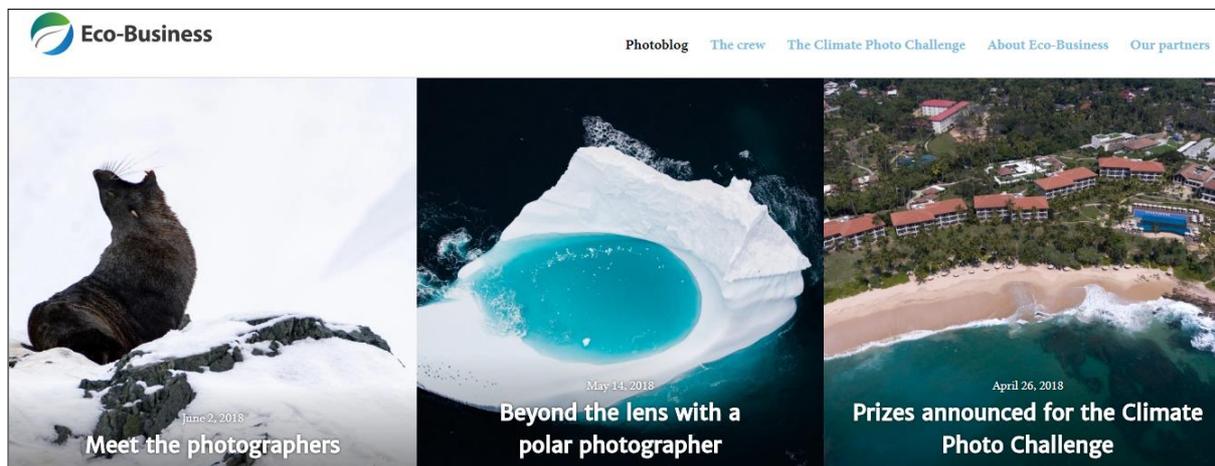
<http://www.eco-business.com/>

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

The Asia-Pacific region includes Oceania (which Australia is part of), South, East Asia and Southeast Asia.

Founded in 2009, the Singapore-based team of 20 led by Jessica Cheam, a journalism luminary as its Managing Editor, strives to build a strong and sustainable social enterprise that enables Asia Pacific's businesses to be environmentally and socially responsible on the low-carbon path. The leading digital media team does this by educating and advocating sustainable development, and providing platforms for sharing of ideas and best practices to raise public awareness and stimulate debate about sustainable development.

In 2013, Eco-Business was given the merit award for the Lee Foundation Excellence in Environmental Report for its remarkable quality of stories and complementary suite of services to promote sustainability of companies in Asia. The past November, Jessica won E-Generation Challenge 2017, and was selected to be part of the Climate Force: Antarctica 2018 expedition led by renowned British environmentalist and explorer Robert Swan. Swan was also the first man who walked both North and South Poles. Jessica and videographer Fraser Morton documented their expedition and produced a photo collection and short documentary that will be on display until July 12 at Singapore Botanic Gardens. You can also click [here](#) to view the eye-opening photos Cheam will be posting about her expedition.



(Screenshot from Jessica's expedition photoblog: <https://changingcourse.eco-business.com/photoblog/>)

Achievements aside, Eco-Business.com also regularly covers a wide range of topics regarding environmental suitability issue. Drawing attention to critical issues like overfishing, illegal palm oil farming and use of solar technology, the team reports on the various bills and actions that governments across Asia-Pacific have sought to address these environmental problems. To cite a few from the website in recent weeks: Indonesia has a planned moratorium to preserve the country's forests by pushing oil palm development away from land clearing; Malaysia is set to develop and implement guidelines and policies to start using district energy systems across the country to reduce primary energy consumption; Singapore is the first in Southeast Asia to introduce its first national carbon pricing scheme by increasing utility charges to spur citizens to lessen carbon emission; and Hong Kong reinvents dumplings through a collaboration with Canadian scientists to create meat-free dumplings to dissuade pigging out (meat production causes global greenhouse emissions).



(Picture: article on Eco-Business.com about reinventing food to launch a sustainable plant-based diet.)

Australia joins in with Sydney using its beach-cleaning efforts to produce vinyl records out of plastic salvaged from the ocean. It is a good start there, but we can certainly learn from the rest of the region and do more in Australia to play a bigger part in the effort to protect our planet.

Eco-business.com also discusses the in-depth perspectives of environmental sustainability issues with “Feature Series”, “Spotlight”, and “Special reports” on the website. Here are some interesting articles if you are still half-decided visiting Eco-business.com: [pineapples as cleaning agent](#), [a guide to \(choosing which eco-friendly contraceptives to use\) eco-sex](#) and [how to sparkle responsibly \(the use of glitter\)](#). Podcasts and videos are also available to engage non-readers in this fight against climate change.

The ongoing year-long campaign launched by Eco-Business.com *Changing Course* continues to focus on themes of renewable energy, zero waste, natural capital and youth. Click for more details: <https://changingcourse.eco-business.com/>. There are numerous events held around the world pertaining to eco sustainability detailed on Eco-Business.com’s events page; one of the upcoming ones in Australia being the 11th Making Cities Liveable Conference to be held in Melbourne on 16 to 17th July 2018.

Eco-Business.com offers free newsletter subscriptions with 2 choices: weekly newsletter published every Wednesday, and/or daily weekday digest. [Click here to subscribe](#). If you decide to dive into the heart of action, you can also join the EB circle by paying SGD60/ year to have priority access to their events, and media training. You can also follow them on Facebook.com/ EcoBusinessMedia, Twitter @ecobusinesscom and LinkedIn.

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National News

AUSTRALIAN RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE & LIVING THE CHANGE (ARRCC)

By Thea Ormerod, Chair of ARRCC | M: 0405 293 466 | E: chair@arrcc.org.au

The invitation to tell HOPE readers about the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change ([ARRCC](#) – pronounced “ark”) was very well timed. We are currently promoting an exciting new campaign, which I will tell you about later!

First, some background. ARRCC was started in 2007, with the support of The Climate Institute (TCI). We have around 3,000 supporters across Australia from a wide range of religious traditions, and around 50 organisational members. These include the Anglican EcoCare Commission, Muslims Australia, Union for Progressive Judaism, Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia and a large number of Catholic Religious Orders. A Queensland ARRCC was started early last year.

Our Mission is two-fold. Firstly, we encourage communities across Australia to embrace lifestyle options which reflects caring for the earth. Secondly, we add a faith voice to the climate debate in Australia. Our positions are aligned with our understanding of climate science and of social justice. In a context where public policies reflect the undue influence of vested interests and a misinformation campaign has been waged, Australia needs prophetic voices. ARRCC makes a modest attempt to be one of these voices, to keep faithful to the urgent need to protect the integrity of creation for future generations.

Our latest focus in the public sphere has been the prevention of the mega-coal mines planned for the Galilee Basin. We have been active in persuading Australia’s big four banks to rule out finance for Adani, rallying opposition to the proposed loan from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and attempting to dialogue directly with Adani.

At the same time, we haven’t lost sight of the challenge to encourage people of faith to live more simply, and that is the aim of a new and ambitious global campaign, “[Living the Change](#)”, which we are promoting right now. With a byline, “faithful choices for a flourishing world”, this is a fresh faith-led initiative which aims to champion the role of more sustainable lifestyles in protecting the earth from global warming.

The campaign is based, in part, on research by scientist [Kevin Anderson](#) which shows that “if the world’s top 10 percent of carbon dioxide emitters were to cut their emissions to the level of the average European Union citizen, global emissions would decline by 33 percent.” The average *European*, not the average African or the average Latin American. While individual changes are downplayed by some, the cumulative effects can be significant. Australians in particular have the potential to make a significant contribution, given that we have around the highest per capita carbon footprint in the world.

Individual believers, faith leaders and communities will be encouraged to make public pledges in three key areas, reducing meat consumption, limiting fossil fuel use from car and air transport and making the shift to renewable energy. Their collective achievement in terms of emissions avoided will be aggregated, and then celebrated at special events in October. By bearing public witness to the vital importance of treading more lightly on the earth, Living the Change intends to challenge the consumerist culture that drives climate change while fortifying more healthy, balanced relationships with the environment.

Living the Change was initiated by the US-based multi-faith organization, [GreenFaith](#), and now has worldwide implementing partners from a range of faith traditions. In addition to ARRCC, they include the [Bhumi Project](#) (Hindu), [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#), [Global Muslim Climate Network](#), [One Earth Sangha](#) (Buddhist) and the [World Evangelical Alliance](#).

Religious leaders are encouraged to promote voluntary actions within their own faith communities. ARRCC is seeking supportive faith leaders and role models who are willing to lead by making conscious choices, congruent with the values and teachings of our faith traditions.

For whole communities who are interested in joining the effort, ARRCC is offering help with installing rooftop solar on community buildings. We are partnering with two reputable not-for-profits, the Community Buying Group and the Moreland Energy Foundation, to make it easy for faith communities to install solar reliably, ethically and inexpensively. If people are interested in further information about the Big Solar Switch for faith communities, they can see https://www.arrcc.org.au/big_solar_switch_for_faith_communities

All resources for the campaign will progressively be made available on the ARRCC website over the coming months. To learn more, see https://www.arrcc.org.au/living_the_change

Resources

Interesting Websites

By Remah Naji, HOPE member QLD



Eco News <http://econews.com.au/>

With its slogan “news to sustain our world,” Eco News provides an online platform of key environmental news as they happen across Australia. It covers a wide range of categories that are essential for a solid understanding of environmental developments from an Australian

perspective. These categories vary between business, climate, health, industry, politics, lifestyle, population and cars. Managed by Carbon Market Pty Ltd, Eco News is among five units that together make a comprehensive coverage for environmental news across various platforms. These units are: Carbon Market, Eco Voice, Eco TV and Eco Daily.



Reverse Garbage QLD <http://www.reversegarbageqld.com.au/>

A not-for-profit organisation that strives to achieve environmental, social and financial sustainability through diverting high quality industrial discards to sell to the community at low-cost. Passionate about reusing and reducing the impact of people on the environment, RBQ runs a number of art

workshops and educational talks and tours that focus on the environment and waste. It also provides a mail order service for low-priced and eco-friendly alternatives to mainstream art and craft supplies that are ideal to purchase in bulk.



Recycling Near You <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/>

Launched by Planet Ark in November 2006, this website provides answers to what is recyclable in your household, and what's not. It also displays drop-off locations

to recycle a variety of items including electronic waste, batteries, printer cartridges, whitegoods, furniture and others. A wide range of educational resources can be found on Recycling Near You, such as factsheets, research and tips. The website also features the latest news in the waste and recycling industry in Australia.



Australia's specialist in clean energy journalism - RenewEconomy

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

RenewEconomy (RE), as of October 2017, surpassed 25 million page views as it continues to be Australia's most

widely read website (RenewEconomy.com.au) on clean energy. You will find there, articles focusing on clean energy news and analysis, as well as climate policy. RenewEconomy aims to discuss ideas, analyse trends, technologies and policies to spearhead an energy-focused revolution driven by the need to act on climate change, energy security and resource scarcity. This is also their answer to the change in how the world is doing business, particularly in numerous multi- trillion-dollar energy sectors.

RenewEconomy also launched their own tee-shirt design “Solar is the Future”, [available for \\$A32 plus postage and handling here](#) to spread the word on clean energy and garner support for the journalism on [RE website](#).



They will also be part of Australian Clean Energy Summit happening 31 July to 01 August 2018 in Sydney, during which leaders of Australia's energy transformation gather to review the latest political, financial, business and technology developments impacting the renewable energy sector. Stay in the loop with RenewEconomy with daily updates and sign up to receive the free daily newsletter by entering your email address into the subscription box on the [website's right hand side](#). Otherwise, you can also find them on Twitter @renew_economy, (click to go) [Facebook](#), [Google+](#)

and [LinkedIn](#).