



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #08 --- Special Edition

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 special edition on HOPE's Partnerships/Alliances program has been compiled by Judy Tan, one of our volunteers from Queensland. Thanks Judy for your efforts in research and writing.

Regards,

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

Introduction to HOPE's Partnerships/Alliances initiative



In an effort to broaden our knowledge base and to tap into the expertise, experience and resources of other like-minded envNGOs, HOPE initiated a “mutual support partnership/alliance” program with key environmental NGOs locally/regionally through Toowoomba / Queensland, nationally in Australia and internationally.

These links have enabled us to cover a broader range of environmental issues – in keeping with our motto of “think Globally, Act Locally”.

And, we believe, these partnerships / alliances have also contributed to our overall effectiveness as an organisation.

So, if you know of any other envNGOs you feel HOPE should partner with, please contact the HOPE at office@hopeaustralia.org.au or call 07 4639 2135 so we can get things started!

“No man is an island” as the adage goes!

We hope to strengthen our network as much as we can in the continual fight to better protect and conserve our environment.

Queensland - Partnerships Alliances



Making Queensland businesses and communities more sustainable - Queensland Conservation Council

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Over the past year, the support for [Queensland Conservation Council \(QCC\)](#) has increased multi-fold as testament to their herculean efforts to protect the environment, wildlife and landscapes, and conserve Queensland's natural resources. The supporter base has doubled in size, its eConnections newsletter receiving more readership, social media engagement rate is going up fast and the staff team has expanded alongside with its membership group. All these mean that their engagement with the community and media outreach has borne fruit as more people become aware about the need to make Queensland sustainable. QCC also develops policies by applying the latest scientific research, and monitor the progress and evaluate the performances of governments, programs and companies to hold them accountable to their commitment in protecting the environment.

[Queensland Conservation Council \(QCC\)](#) wants Queensland to lose the title of being the "land clearing capital" of Australia. One of the current and urgent actions QCC is campaigning for the state emblem, the koala, by asking all political parties to stop destroying natural habitats. QCC wants you to join in their call for this cause, where [you can add your voice here](#) to help them to be heard. QCC has also teamed up with Diamond Energy where Diamond Energy will make a donation to QCC for every sign up to support the efforts to protect Queensland's environment. [Find out more here](#) as you switch to support new renewable energy. Felicity Wishart Memorial Project was launched in remembrance of Australia's leading female environmental protection activist [Felicity Wishart](#), who passed away in 2015, and the project aims to provide \$5000 Leadership Training scholarships for female activists.

Follow [Queensland Conservation Council \(QCC\)](#)'s tireless efforts in protecting Queensland environment here on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



The leader in natural resource management - Queensland Water & Land Carers

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Natural resource management (NRM) refers to the protection and improvement of environmental assets such as soils, water, vegetation and biodiversity. [Queensland Water and Land Carers \(QWaLC\)](#) oversees a vast NRM network of members made up of NRM groups, regional bodies, government representatives and industry personnel, in which they play the role of representation, advocacy, promotion, networking and insurance administration on behalf of the members. QWaLC manages three policies: [NFP Association Liability policy wording](#), [Public and Products Policy Wording](#), and [Voluntary Workers Wording](#). [QWaLC believes the NRM volunteer sector is vital to Queensland economy; hence they also coordinate Queensland Landcare Awards to promote the achievements of NRM volunteers, and invest many hours of volunteers' time into environmental outcomes.](#)

In 2015, [Queensland Water and Land Carers \(QWaLC\)](#) participated in awards (namely Premiers Sustainability Awards, and 25th Landcare and CoastCare Awards). For 2018, in conjunction with the theme 'Landcare- Building a Better Tomorrow', QWaLC is holding the National Landcare Conference and Awards in mid-October where keynote speakers will congregate to share their expertise during the three-day event where informative presentations, social events and educational field trips within Brisbane's CBD will be held.

For free newsletter subscriptions, hope over to [this link](#). You can also visit them on their social media platforms: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Biodiversity matters. But why? – Protect the Bush Alliance

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Australia is home to some 600,000 to 700,000 different plants and animals, making us one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. More than 80% of our mammals, reptiles and flowering plants are found only on this continent. However we are also sadly responsible for the highest rate of mammal extinction because of habitat destruction, land clearing, feral animals and invasive weeds. [Protect the Bush Alliance](#) (PTBA) wants to put an end to this by protecting areas of high conservation value against inappropriate activities by identifying and encouraging understanding of the importance of biodiversity and other environmental values, and collecting data in targeted areas of high conservation value which are under threat.

As PTBA Inc, this organisation is actively involved in stopping inappropriate developments that decimates Australia's rare, endangered and vulnerable species. [Protect the Bush Alliance](#)'s current action priorities see members continually work with landholders and communities to increase understanding on the importance of biodiversity, especially on private land. Developing stronger ties with member organisations, examining proposed changes for better environment legislation and submitting recommendations to relevant government departments are also part of their ongoing efforts to protect areas of high conservation value.

PTBA is currently funded by BirdLife Southern Queensland and there is no membership fee to those who share the same vision and want to be part of the organisation. [Click here to join](#). PTBA is also reachable on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Protect and promote our precious environment in Southern Queensland

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

[Darling Downs Environment Council \(DDEC\)](#) is a peak Council for Environment Groups within Southern Queensland; and they seek to improve and protect the environment and biodiversity, maintain ecosystems and restore damaged ones, balance between the practicality of on-ground actions with ideals, and help Darling Downs (Lockyer, Southern Downs, Burnett, Maranoa) stay environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Within Toowoomba Region, [DDEC](#) is inviting interested parties to develop a plan *together* towards protecting and preserving our trees. The plan is to tap into Toowoomba community's resources so a vegetation plan can be adopted by Toowoomba Region Council. Right now, there are coal mining companies targeting farmland with their proposal of building a major mine on Darling Downs in the vicinity of the Oakey Hospital. As part of Lock the Gate Alliance, farmers are campaigning to stop the mine from being approved and [DDEC](#) is committed to save our fellow Queenslanders' rice bowls and farmers' livelihoods. [Go to this link](#) and join the fight to save our Acland and Eastern Downs!

[Click here to receive](#) free monthly newsletter regarding in the continual fight against losing the beautiful nature of Darling Downs, and stay in touch with [Darling Downs Environment Council \(DDEC\)](#) on [Facebook](#).

National - Partnerships Alliances



The fight for a new generation of national environment laws - Places You Love Alliance

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

The [Places You Love Alliance](#) is a network of over 45 environment groups, representing over 1.5 million Australians across the country to champion a new generation of nature laws so these solutions can materialise: protect and restore our natural environment, strengthen our democracy, and support community involvement. The Alliance, together with the Australian community, is fighting for the implementation of a better system with higher efficiency; one in where Australians can partake in transparent key decisions consistently, is accountable for when it comes to management of major environmental issues for the good of all, and designed to provide adequate protection and restoration of Australia's unique species and ecosystems. Australia was the last continent to be discovered and reached but we now lead the world on extinction with the highest number of mammals declared extinct since European settlement.

As a body, the [Places You Love Alliance](#) is calling for reforms to current legislation that truly have the interests of Australia's environment at heart: genuine protection of our natural and cultural heritage, national environmental standards for conservation and management of extinction threats, effective operation of environment protection policies, and engaging the people in community rights and participation in environment decision making. There is an upcoming event "Stand Against Extinction" in September 2018 in Canberra and you can [find out more here](#). There are no newsletter subscriptions available as of now, but there are numerous resources [on the website here](#) that you can look at to discover how you can be one of this 1.5 million people in this battle against extinction of species unique to Australia.

You can also check out their [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#) on how we can protect our Australia.



Shaping a better and fairer future- Make Poverty History

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Over the past 2 decades, [Make Poverty History](#) (MPH) has been making progress towards a more just and equal world by tearing down barriers of poverty that stops people from realising their potential. One of the many success stories as an organisation, is that they halved the number of children who die before their fifth birthday. Reaching the 8th Millennium Development Goal (such as aid, trade, and justice) is MPH's global mission. Extreme poverty could be ended by 2025 if developed nations kept their promise and give 70 cents out of every \$100 made to the world's poorest.

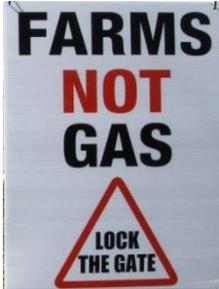
[Make Poverty History](#) is campaigning for Australian Aid as part of the ongoing efforts in honouring their commitment to providing aid and reduce poverty and inequality. This is a joint initiative of Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge coalitions (supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) for all Australians who believe we can and should do more to eliminate extreme poverty around the world, and that Australians can celebrate our important contributions on the world stage to attain the 8th Millennium Development Goal as a nation.

Follow the progress of MPH's journey on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) as how we move closer to making poverty history as a nation.



Say no to unconventional gas extraction and coal mining! - Lock the Gate Alliance

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD



A sign like this 'screams' on a landholder's gate. It is not the only one. Landholders all over the nation who put up similar signs are making it clear that they do not give permission for gas and mining companies to enter their properties. [Lock the Gate Alliance](#) serves to help landholders to do that- protect Australia's natural, cultural and agricultural resources from unscrupulous companies' inappropriate mining practices, and to empower all Australians to demand sustainable solutions to food and energy protection.

As part of upping its public awareness efforts, "Voices from the Gaslands" is a series of videos produced by [Lock the Gate Alliance](#) depicting how the coal seam gas industry in Queensland is damaging the lives and businesses - when impact ranges from mental health issues to dry water bores. These money-minded coal mining companies' practices are threatening the health of local communities, important water resources, natural areas and farmlands- leading to water pollution, regional extinction of native species and deforestation. They also pay little or no tax, dodging royalties and ramp up our power prices - all at the expenses of our health, sources of food and water, and our icons (Darling Downs, our rivers, Murray-Darling Basin, and even the Great Barrier Reef). Some of these companies are proposing to tear up Bylong Valley and build more gasfields in NSW.

The fight against the acts of unethical coal mining companies continues as campaigns are launched over the next few months to reject expansion of coal mines and the companies' proposals to be declined: [Time2Choose](#) (NSW), and [For The Love of Queensland](#). We should want a future of clean food, air and energy! Subscribe for free newsletters by entering your email address at the top of their website's page. Go to [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and be part of [Lock the Gate Alliance](#)'s efforts to protect our precious lands!



Start local for a global impact - Transition Towns

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Telling stories reminds humans of the most basic yet effective way of communication despite the rapid change of technology. We still find ourselves captivated by each other's renditions of a weekend adventure, or an engaging story plot

read over the radio. Word changes worlds and this is what the organisation [Transition Network](#) strives to do-tell inspiring stories of how people around the world crowd-source solutions, nurture a caring culture with the focus on supporting each other as groups and individuals, and reclaim the economy by sparking entrepreneurship, re-imagining work, re-skilling themselves and weaving webs of connection and support; all these in the name of *Transition*.

[Transition Network](#) is the main gathering point where groups and organisations form at varying scales to catalyse and support transition. There are global and local levels, further segmented into national and regional hubs. There is also a diversity of communities, and they are growing fast as they build more structured definition and resilience in whichever part of the world they are; hence characterising a trait of Transition: self-organising.

A successful Transition is finding balance between the head, heart and hands. We find the best information and evidence available, come up collectively with better ways of living, at the same time incorporating compassion and mindfully integrating the spiritual developments of the work we do in the Transition journey. It is then we can bring forth our visions and ideas through practical actions into reality in the place we live.

To get started, you can visit [Transition Network](#)'s website and get free news and updates via the subscription link at the bottom of their website. Otherwise you can also assess their [blog](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Youtube](#) to see how you can find a place in their vast and supportive network to start your Transition.



The boomerang is more than just an Australian icon of sport and entertainment - Boomerang Alliance (BA)

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Just like a boomerang, the force we use to throw things in life will come back to us! Metaphorically speaking, what we do to our environment today will be what we receive from it tomorrow. [Boomerang Alliance](#) (BA) aims to be the peak NGO in Australia to be the driver of behavioural and systemic change necessary to bring social, economic and environmental benefits of a zero-waste society and waste reduction across the Asia-Pacific region.

[Boomerang Alliance](#) recently won the “Cash for Containers” campaign ([read about it here](#)) after persevering for the last 13 years to bear witness, assess economic and environment performances of the different Container Deposit System (CDS) schemes, lobbying the mayors, and tireless years of community work to clean up litter. This campaign will be implemented in New South Wales, and involves a 10-cent refund and significant use of reverse vending machines to maximise recycling of drink containers and minimise litter through the use of Container Deposit System (CDS).

Never one to rest on its laurels, Boomerang Alliance continues to push forward for infrastructure creation and laws to make recycling and protection of the environment effective, and easy for households and businesses. To eliminate toxic practices and products, BA believe that regulations in terms of bans and new laws are necessary so higher responsibility is taken on by makers of products **and** consumer action.

MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION
COMMUNITIES TAKING CONTROL
CASH FOR CONTAINERS
BAN PLASTIC BAGS
WHAT A WASTE
E-WASTE
TOXIC TYRES
MATTRESS RECYCLING

This is the list of BA's ongoing campaigns reflecting their belief on how we can collectively stop polluting our ecosystems, together, as a nation.

To get started on how you can learn to protect your environment you can check out their [resources pages](#) for guidance. There is no free newsletter subscription available at the time of writing this article., but you can stay updated about their endeavours, and be part of the action on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Youtube](#).

International - Partnerships Alliances

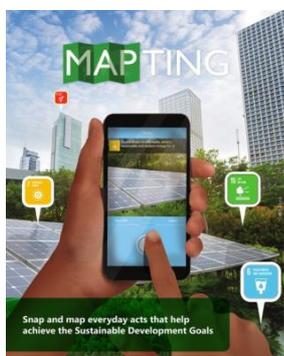


Expanding our capacity to care for our Earth community- Earth Charter Initiative

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

The [Earth Charter Initiative](#) (ECI) first began as a United Nations initiative that has since progressed and launched as a people's charter in 2000 by the Earth Charter Commission, an independent international entity, in The Hague located in Netherlands. Organizations and individuals who share its sustainability vision are gathered and used as a collective power to guide the transition towards a more just, sustainable and peaceful global society. ECI's focus is the incorporation of sustainable ways for living and human development, with ecological integrity as one of its major themes. Other themes they espouse, interdependent and indivisible, include:

- (1) ecological protection;
- (2) eradication of poverty,
- (3) equitable economic development;
- (4) respect for human rights, democracy, and peace.



As part of the collaboration with Soka Gakkai International, [Earth Charter Initiative](#) launched a mobile app [Mapping](#) that serves to share pictures and videos to engage the younger generation, to realise the 17 Sustainable Development Goals ([click here for list](#)) by the target date of 2030. (image from [Soka Gakkai International website](#)) Recognizing the power of our next generation, ECI had also organised big scale meetings (some recent ones being, "Youth Saves the Planet" UNESCO Conferences, and "Recycling and Solidarity Peru") and campaigns to empower young people to gear the world towards its sustainability goals.

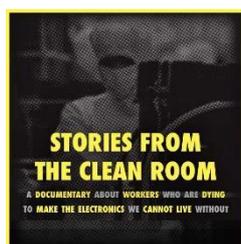
For the upcoming months, they are also starting classes for online certification on Education for Sustainable Development 2019, and International Professional Development Program as part of their Education Conference 2019 during which the Sustainable Development Goals, Education, Earth Charter will be discussed. To find out how you can integrate the Earth Charter in your own life and community, you can [peruse this link](#) for numerous resources to get started. If you are thinking about gaining deeper knowledge, you [can consider their programs available at their education center](#). ECI maintains several social media handles: [Linkedin](#), [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). Otherwise, you can join their mailing list via the link on the top right of their website (<http://earthcharter.org/>) for the latest happenings of Earth Charter Initiative.



Eradicate toxic materials in our life just as we would do for negative influences for our personal happiness- International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD

Most of us probably spend a lot of effort weeding out stuff in our lives that doesn't bond well for our personal happiness. But what if we also do a cleanup that includes our physical environment from buying toxic-free electronic products to choosing not to use lead paint for our house makeover? [International POPs Elimination Network \(IPEN\)](#) is a global network of more than 600 NGOs, in over 100 countries, dedicated to eliminate persistent organic pollutants (POP) to fulfil its ongoing goal of a toxic-free future where chemicals are produced and used in ways which no longer pollute our local and global environment, contaminate our food, communities, children and future generations.



IPEN positions itself strategically in such a way that it brings together organisations on both localised and globalised scales to increase greater public awareness of toxic issues and help their governments implement international policies such as chemicals treaties and chemical safety policy treatments. Over the decade, IPEN has also given its direct support to over 400 projects in 80 countries to strengthen bonds between partners across sectors so everyone can be part of making a toxic-free future happen. Some of the recent on-ground campaigns include Honouring Minamata and Toxics-Free Rio, and the global outreach project aimed at civil society organisations throughout the world about Strategic

Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and chemical safety. IPEN participating organizations are also screening the film *Stories from the Clean Room* in over 20 countries to expose the industry's refusal to identify toxic chemicals in manufacturing of its growing electronic production sectors.

Knowledge is power so we need to know what is happening in order to take steps to prevent the situation from worsening. Being aware is the first step on working together towards a toxic-free world.

As of writing, there is no email subscription available but the media center on the website is updated with periodic press releases regarding news on the world's progress of making the world toxic-free. Find them on <http://ipen.org/media-center>. They also have a twitter feed you can follow [@ToxicsFree](https://twitter.com/ToxicsFree).



The only way to avoid a future that no effective humanitarian response could remedy is [The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#)

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD



This would be the last image of remnants of Earth that we will want to see – wouldn't you agree?

The effects of radiation caused by catastrophes in the past century continue to cause suffering and deaths years after as lands remain barren and unusable, and health problems plague the survivors and generations that follow. Even if there were no explosion, the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons still cause intolerable effects on public health. Just the mere presence of these weapons breeds fear and mistrust among nations, and accomplishes nothing in addressing today's real security risks (to name a few, climate change, overpopulation, terrorism). It is the only device created that is able to destroy all complex life forms; less than 0.1% of the explosive yield of the current global nuclear arsenal is all it takes to bring on widespread famine and agricultural collapse.

The only guarantee against this happening is for the use of nuclear weapons to be prohibited and completely eliminated. This is the supreme aim of [The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons \(ICAN\)](#); a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. A landmark global agreement has been reached within the last decade as majority of the world's nations contribute to Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

ICAN received the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its tremendous efforts to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons. They allocated part of the prize money to kickstart a 1000-day fund ([read about it here](#)) to support initiatives that push towards the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. ICAN is also seeking parliamentarians' support to promote the signature and ratification of the treaty by all nations through its ICAN Parliamentary Pledge.

Part of ongoing efforts to campaign tirelessly for all nations to work for disarmament and highlight trans-boundary impacts of nuclear weapons continues till this day through **African Council of Religious Leaders / Religions for Peace formed to promote the treaty across Africa**. Education is also a tool used as collaborations with the **Institute of International Studies in Indonesia** and the **Center for Peace Education in the Philippines** which are formed to help raise support for the Treaty in the Asia-Pacific region. ICAN is also appealing to financial institutions <http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/> to withdraw their investments in the nuclear arms industry so the banks stop facilitating the build-up of nuclear forces and undermine efforts towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

To stay in the loop, [subscribe here via this link](#) on their [website](#), and you can continue to support ICAN's cause for a nuclear-free world via their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Youtube](#), and [Vimeo](#).