



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #10 --- October 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,

HOPE's mission is to provide advice, contacts and resources to help people throughout Australia (and elsewhere) to transition to a sustainable future. This month's selection of articles hopefully addresses this aspect.

Also, we welcome more "Back to Basics" helpful hints articles – anything from organic gardening practices, green cleaners and energy efficient appliances.

Regards,

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

## 2018 National/International Events Calendar

### October

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- 2 [World Habitat Day](#)
- 3-4 [All Energy 2018 conference](#)
- 4-10 [World Space Week](#)
- 5 [National Walk to Work Day](#)
- 16 [World Food Day](#)
- 17 [National Ride 2 Work Day](#)
- 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- 21-27 [National Water Week](#)
- 22-28 National Bird Week – including [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)
- 24 [United Nations Day](#)

### November

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- 5 [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#)
- 10 **HOPE Annual general Meeting; following by 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting of 2018-2019**
- 11-18 [Pollinator Week](#)
- 12-18 [National Recycling Week](#)
- 14 [International GIS Day](#)
- 21 [World Fisheries Day](#)

### December

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- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
  - 5 [World Soil Day](#)
  - 10 [Human Rights Day](#)
  - 11 [International Mountain Day](#)
  - TBC **HOPE End-of-Year Social**
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## HOPE News --- October 2018

Good morning,

### September highlights:

- 8<sup>th</sup> HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting with guest speaker Daniel Patava from United Nations (UN) Youth Australia (Qld division) giving an extensive overview on the work of UNYA and a proposed 1-day Youth Summit to be held in Toowoomba in 2019.
- Issued nationally, email Media Releases promoting:
  - Australia's current and future environmental laws are at risk. It's time to Act! (emailed 15/09)
  - World Parks Day, 20 Sept 2018 (emailed 17/09)
  - World Food day, 16 Oct 2018 (emailed 24/09)
  - World Habitat Day, 1 October 2018 emailed 20/09)
  - UN Treaty banning nuclear weapons takes another rapid step towards becoming international law (27/09)
- Joined newly formed Southern Queensland (SQ) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Ltd
- 17<sup>th</sup> Miriam submitted funding application to Federal Government's Volunteer Grants program for a new computer
- 20<sup>th</sup> Received formal notification from ICANw (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) of our partnership acceptance

The office has also been undertaking tasks:

- Issue-based slogans such as "Transitioning to a Sustainable Future", "Volunteering for the Environment" and "Youth Engagement in Landcare" → **Do you have any other suggestions?**
- Membership Survey – via Survey Monkey questions (with Tim's help)
- Designing a magnetic car-sign (with Steve's help)
- Work on draft budget (with Robert's help)
- Work on template for Helpful Hints information sheet
- Work on Office Admin Guide
- Campaigners required for major issues such as Climate Change; Nuclear Disarmament (ICANw); Biodiversity Conservation; Landcare/NRM; Waste Management & Minimisation; Genetic Modified Organisms; and others → **Volunteers urgently required.**
- Rewrite of national Membership Drive media release
- Development of a 5-year Strategic Plan
- More promotion of UN Sustainable Development Goals



### Vale – Janet Mackenzie,

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) wishes to advise of the passing of Janet Mackenzie, our founder, on 18 September at the age of 71.

Janet was an inspirational speaker and advocate for sustainable living.

The celebration of the life of Janet Mackenzie will be held in Mansfield, Victoria on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of October.

Janet specifically requested donations of blood through Red Cross would be an appreciated gesture to her memory.

### October highlights:

Preparation for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 8 November 2018 is well under way with reports by office bearers being drafted; and canvassing for extra volunteers to help with executive roles and admin support for 2018-2019 – with Stephen Warburton stepping up to help with website maintenance and Danial Patava assisting with social media posting.

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](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.

### 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

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear HOPE,

Re: *Respect the Ocean and Remove your Rubbish!*



*I was in one of my favourite places in Australia, Noosa National Park, but was too distracted to appreciate where I was. Instead of watching waves move back and forth or listening as they crash to the shore I was bent over staring at the sand. I spent more than half my staring at a universally ugly sight, rubbish! Over a 200meter beach my mate and I picked up over 3kg of rubbish. Sadly, I wasn't surprised as this has become the norm on beaches not just in Australia but all over world. It is such a frequent occurrence that I have even gotten into the habit of taking rubbish bags whenever I go to the beach or on hikes.*

*People have been discussing the problem of rubbish on beaches for years and all of the negative effects have been presented and discussed and I don't want to, because you all know this, you all live it. Instead I want to harp on the point of how easy it is to not just be a part of the solution but to actually **be** the solution!*

*Everyone understands the ocean is all connected and is a fluid system, meaning you cannot make a change in one area and expect to have your problem solved because it could be affected by actions in other areas – but this fact doesn't mean the problems or solutions should be pawned off on someone else! It starts local, it starts with you! Next*

*time you go to the beach or on a hike, bring a rubbish bag with you, account for all of your rubbish, and help others by not only picking up their rubbish but educating them.*

*We have been enjoying and reaping the benefits of the ocean for centuries. It takes on many roles and responsibilities including providing resources and livelihoods, cultural and spiritual significance, enjoyment and recreation and beauty! With all of the benefits the ocean provides the least anyone can do is to help preserve it for the organisms that rely on it as well as for our future generations – how sad would it be to tell your grandchild about the beautiful beaches you used to go to and not be able to show them because it is overrun with rubbish. You are a small part of the ocean's story so help to avoid writing the final chapter and pick up your rubbish!*

*Kelly Donovan, University of Queensland*

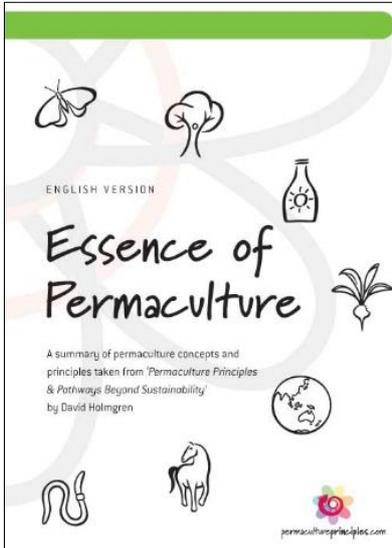
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## Feature Articles



### Leading the way living in rhythm with nature - Holmgren Design Permaculture

Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD



Together with his partner and son, David Holmgren brings forth his vision of a permanent or sustainable culture by designing permaculture ethics and design principles. Readers also enjoy easy access to his wealth of knowledge via his website Holmgren Design (<https://holmgren.com.au/>).

Permaculture is when landscapes are designed to mimic patterns and relationships found in nature whilst yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for provision of local needs. David has also created a summary of permaculture concept and principles, which is also translated into many languages (German, French, etc) as an easy introduction to permaculture. Find the [PDF free for download here](#).

As a family, they also conduct tours during September to May at their Melliodora-Hepburn Permaculture Gardens ([find out more here](#)) so visitors can experience first-hand how permaculture works. David is also conducting courses and writes reviews and analysis pieces on permaculture. In honour of Venie Holmgren, Western Australian's voice for anti-war and anti-logging rallies (who passed away at age 92 in January 2016) Venie Holmgren Environment Poetry Prize was created to encourage

budding and seasoned poets to submit original works that promote environmental sustainability.

Free newsletter subscription function button is on the right-hand sidebar on the website's main page (<https://holmgren.com.au/>). There will also be a Chinese version of the tour at Melliodora come this November. With FutureScenarios.org, David continues to evolve the design system of permaculture by creatively responding to futures with decreasing available energy and is also part of the Hepburn Relocalisation Network to raise awareness and formulate responses to the urgent realities of peak oil and climate change. Join David Holmgren in this movement to live a permanent and sustainable culture. Permaculture is the way to go!



### UN YOUTH AUSTRALIA - <https://unyouth.org.au/>

By Daniel Patava, HOPE volunteer Qld

*UN Youth Australia* (UNYA) is a national youth-led charity that focuses on educating and empowering young Australians on global issues. Each year, UNYA educate tens of thousands of young Australians about international issues, and about the role of the United Nations – with the aim of inspiring and equipping a new generation of young people to make changes on the issues they care about. UNYA is officially

recognised under the World Federation of United Nations Associations, which is in turn recognised by the United Nations proper.

UNYA is run entirely by a team of young volunteers, all aged 16-25. UN Youth is one of the only organisations in Australia to trust young people in all organising and managerial capacities. Each year, UNYA runs a broad range of peer-education programs that provide students with the variety of skills. This includes the National Youth Conference, Evatt (Australia's largest Model UN competition), Voice (a national public speaking competition), and a wide variety of state and territory events. Internationally, UNYA coordinates educational tours of Europe, East Timor, the Middle East, New Zealand, and the United States of America.

UNYA works directly with the Australian Government, and was a founding member of the Australian Youth Forum. Frequently, UNYA makes submissions to Senate inquiries on topics relevant to youth. In collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, UNYA also nominates an Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations General Assembly, who joins the UN each year as an accredited diplomat.

UNYA is overseen by a National Executive and Board of Directors, with divisions in each state and territory overseen by independent executives. *UN Youth Queensland* (UNYQ) manages the organisations capacities in Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

An active goal of UNYQ is to grow the division’s regional programs and long-term regional engagement. Diversifying their calendar of events, and building and maintaining relationships with partner universities and community organisations, is an official duty of the organisation. As such, it looks to groups like *HOPE Australia* for inspiration and support.

Volunteering in one’s division is the best way to become involved with *UN Youth Australia*. Otherwise, UN Youth is looking for partners who may wish to strengthen their youth engagement, and help to sponsor activities. UN Youth is actively engaged on most social media platforms – particularly Facebook, where most opportunities are advertised (<https://www.facebook.com/UNYouthQLD/>).

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## Australia’s Citizen Science Project

By Dan Bielich, Researcher for HOPE Inc. ---B.Sc. – Climate Science, M Env. Sc.



“Citizen Science” is a term used to identify an Australian project, which allows the general public an opportunity to work with scientific professionals to gather and collect valuable data, and be a part of something bigger than themselves. In the scientific community data collection is vital for reliable results. This program provides a fundamental chance for a healthy relationship between the general-public and scientific community.

Funding is becoming increasingly harder to come by, especially in the current political climate. With today’s technological capabilities there is no reason why the general public isn’t able to get involved in such scientific projects and gain a broader context in the environmental issues at hand. There are however some mental barriers. People sometimes tend to be “afraid” of science. However, the design of this program works through a coloured belt system as one would see at a self-defence class. Starting from yellow belt to black belt, each belt is awarded based on the quantity of hours dedicated to the science citizen project. Most projects have a briefing seminar where the public that is interested in the project are prepped, and have are given a run-down of the objectives, the skills and the methods of the project, as well as the chance for clarification of any queries.

This project runs across the entire country, and allows people to gain an understanding about the environment, and spreads awareness of environmental issues in their “own backyard”. This transition of environmental issues becoming a more personal issue than an impersonal one, which is a vital part of the process for the general-public to gain an understanding about the changing environment, and its impact.

The beauty of this project is it does not force people to do things they do not wish to do, but rather educates those who are interested or already enthusiasts in the field. For example, bird lovers are able to concentrate on scientific projects relating to bird population monitoring, and identification. Star gazers are able to hand in their own star maps etc.



### Case Study 1 – Eastern Bristlebird

There are only approximately 2500 of these birds left in Australia, however the introverted behaviour of the bird makes it difficult to monitor, especially as they cease singing when humans approach. Through the Citizen Science program people were able to receive remote recorders in the bush to help identify the bird and assist in the monitoring of the vulnerable species.

### Case Study 2 – The Waterbug Consensus

This project focuses on water pollution and river health in your local river systems. If you sign up for this project you will receive a datasheet with over 140 species. You are then trained over 5-6 hours to identify these species. This data in turn assists to identifying if the areas are at a high enough water bug population for platypus survival. This data is analysed and placed in a management plan to assist in ensuring survival of the species. The program has attracted over 660 people since it began, with about 130 new people signing up every year.

### Case 3 – Mildew Mania

In WA, school children are given a similar opportunity within their own educational institution. This project tracks the extent of a fungal disease in agricultural crops. With the use of a “handbook, a magnifying glass and vial of agar jelly, they are able to send reliable scientific data to researchers”. Through this project scientists are able to understand the complex adaptation of the fungus. Every year the disease affects many barley strains, which

in turn has a huge impact on our agricultural sector. It teaches kids scientific skills and gives them the opportunity to be part of environmental and social change, which can be a powerful tool. This project alone has involved over 19 000 students over 247 schools, with scientists providing over 700 experiment kits for the data collection.

These projects are a huge step forward in the aim of bridging the gap between science and the general public, which in turn, we hope will change the perspective of science and its place in the local and regional communities.

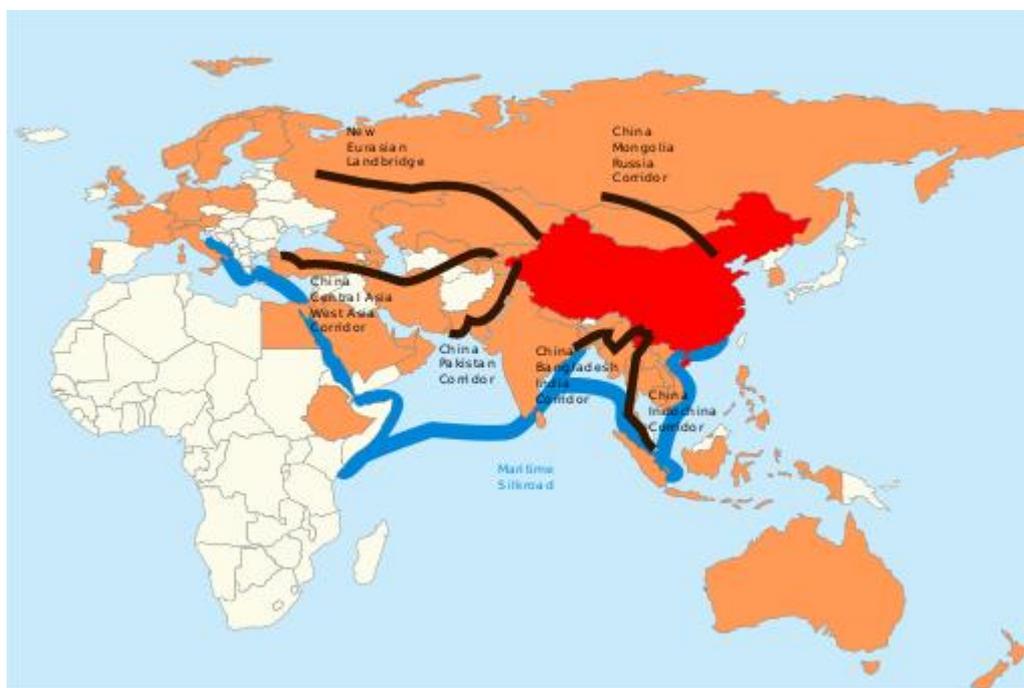
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## World News

### Economy and the Environment

By Dan Bielich, Researcher for HOPE Inc. ---B.Sc. – Climate Science, M Env. Sc.

Road project otherwise known as the Silk Road Economic Belt ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belt\\_and\\_Road\\_Initiative](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belt_and_Road_Initiative)) is a development project that is on the brink of construction. This multi trillion-dollar development includes over 7000 individual projects and will span across the entire globe in China's hope for a prosperous future with the rest of the trade world. However, the environmental and ecological repercussions have been deemed disastrous.



(China in red, Members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (<https://www.aiib.org/en/index.html>) in orange, the six corridors in black)

The Belt and Humans are continuously accelerating the demise of ecological and biological richness, and this project will be another nail in the coffin. With over 2000 biodiversity areas, hotspots and delicate ecosystems threatened, many of these species are on the edge of extinction will likely disappear, including the Sumatran tiger and Tapanuli orangutan. The Tapanuli orangutan inhabits an area equivalent to 0.3% of Sumatra's entire land area, and the Sumatran tiger populations aren't much more.

There has been much rebuttal and warnings against the proceeding of the project, even by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and scientific community, but hostile developers have ensured development of the project and initial land clearing has already commenced.

The full extent of ecological and environmental damage is unknown, but what is known that the damage will be irreversible.

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## National News



### Strengthening the plant biosecurity scientific capacity of Australia- Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC)

*Written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer QLD*

The Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC) strives to provide biosecurity based on science. Australia's plant industries currently provide a competitive edge with secure market access and lower productive

costs. These could be ruined if pests and diseases find their way into Australia as it would affect the economic viability worth \$14billion in exports and \$8 billion in domestic markets. To prevent this from happening, PBCRC strives to develop and deploy scientific knowledge, tools, resources and capacity to safeguard Australia and offer protection from invasive diseases and pests, terrorism and crime.

PBCRC's website (<http://www.pbcrc.com.au>) puts up summaries and publications of research projects, which are also categorised based on Impact Themes (for the full list, [click here](#)). Projects are delivered to organisations that will use or benefit from the research. Last March, PBCRC also completed a program in which the Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership was formed to use Australian expertise to strengthen biosecurity skills and planning in Eastern and Southern Africa. Research programs are also embedded by Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC) to educate and train the next generation of biosecurity experts. Right now, PBCRC is concurrently guiding the research investments with [Investment Plan 2012-2018](#) created to deliver on Australia's Commonwealth Agreement outputs, Participants Agreement, research program goals and priorities.

To be in the loop regarding our biosecurity defence agenda, there is a monthly newsletter that [you can sign up for here](#). PBCRC is also actively involved in public outreach activities about their efforts, which [you can read about](#) by visiting their various portals on this page: <http://www.pbcrc.com.au/communications>



### Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) - (<https://www.dea.org.au/>)

*Written by Supreet Kaur, HOPE volunteer Qld*

Established in 2001 with the vision of 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People', Doctors for the Environment (DEA) can proudly claim to be the only organisation in Australia where professionals from medical background come together and work towards a common goal of 'promoting good health through taking care of the environment'.

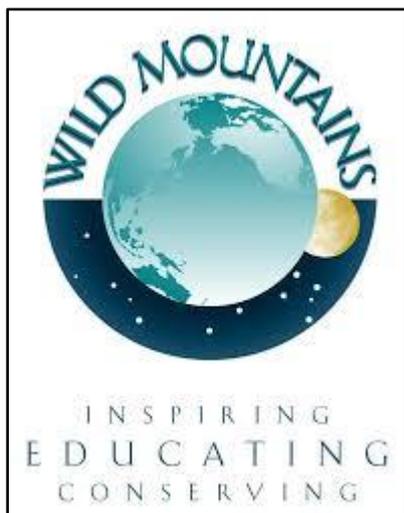
At DEA, their mission is to draw attention towards the importance of healthy life achievable through promoting sustainable development and preventing environmental degradation. They use scientific evidence to explain and illustrate the necessity of having a natural and clean environment for the overall human health.

Since their inception, DEA has made several submissions to parliamentary committees on various issues like renewable energy, fossil fuels, sustainable hospitals and uranium mining. They have also published factsheets on bushfires, health hazards of coal mining, heatwave, unconventional gas and made presentations on topics like 'Health Sustainability and the Role of Medical Profession', 'Health Effects of Adani Coalmine' and many more topics covering health and environment. If you are interested in watching the presentation or reading the submissions and fact sheets, they can be downloaded from their website.

*DEA students* is an important component of DEA where hundreds of medical students all over Australia actively participate in promoting the discussions and debates on health and environment.

You can like and follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DocsEnvAus/> or follow them on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/DocsEnvAus> to get recent news and updates about their activities.

## Queensland News



### **The Wild Mountains Trust - (<http://www.wildmountains.org>)**

*Written by Supreet Kaur, HOPE volunteer Qld*

**Wild Mountains Trust** is a not for profit organization based in Rathdowney in Queensland. Officially crested in April 1998, it has been actively involved in the field of environmental conservation and education.

Their vision is to create a world, through education, where people learn to live by sharing earth's resources with other life forms and without damaging our life support systems. They believe that through education people can better understand their relationship with nature.

The *Earthkeeper's Program* is a three-day program for students aged between 10 and 12 to teach them about the environment and about basic concepts like water and soil, energy flow and cycles of air. They take up to 40 students and the program is packed with adventure and discovery. It is a great learning experience for the kids and also fulfills the curriculum

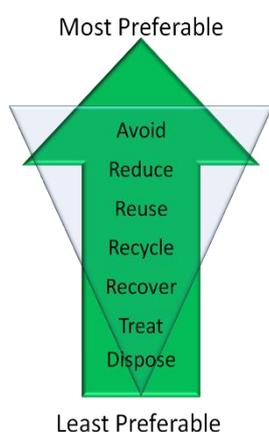
needs to some extent.

The *Shapers of Tomorrow* is another 5-day program that takes 14-16 year olds and helps them to explore sustainable living and encourages them to live as responsible individuals without putting pressure on the earth's resources. They take 40 students for this program as well, and provide superior experience with better learning outcomes.

The *International Student Volunteer Program* takes 15 University students from US, UK and Canada each year, for two weeks. The participants learn through group discussions, journal writing and group discovery and learn new skills and assist the organization by reaching out to people from different parts of the world.

Anyone interested in their educational programs and courses can visit the following link <https://wildmountains.org/programs> on their website. You can also receive regular updates and news about upcoming events by subscribing to their mailing list.

## The Waste Hierarchy



- Avoid** - collecting or creating waste
- Reduce** - waste and use of resources, especially water and electricity
- Reuse** - what you can
- Repair** - give an item a longer life
- Divert** - send items to welfare stores, not to the tip
- Recycle** - glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium - support your Council recycling programs
- Disposal** - to the appropriate facility - don't litter or illegally dump