



The HOPE Management Team wishes you and your family all the best for the festive season.

The office will close 5pm Friday 21 December 2018; and will reopen at 9am on Monday 8 January 2019.



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2018 #12 --- December 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,

I'm exhausted after the work involved in preparation of November's AGM and 1st Ordinary Meeting of the 2018-2019 Management Team!

I look forward to the end-of-year social and the office closure over the Christmas and New Year period.

I encourage you to read this edition conscientiously and provide feedback, ideas, issues ... as your input is happily sought.

Regards,

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

2018 National/International Events Calendar

December

- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
- 5 [World Soil Day](#)
- 10 **HOPE End-of-Year Social, Toowoomba City Golf Club**
- 10 [Human Rights Day](#)
- 11 [International Mountain Day](#)

HOPE End-of-Year Social – Toowoomba

--- Toowoomba City Golf Club | Monday, 10 December 2018, 6.30pm

Merry Christmas! May this *greeting* find you and yours in good spirits, ready to celebrate the gifts of peace and joy with friends and loved ones.

The 2018-19 HOPE team invites you to join us City Golf Club, 254 South Street, Toowoomba on Monday, 10 December from 6.30pm for a meal and social gathering. Each person pays for their own meal and drinks.

RSVP by 7 December to the HOPE Office by return email or phone 07 4639 2135., so that numbers can be confirmed for the venue.

HOPE News --- December 2018

Good afternoon,

Major activities of November included the holding of our Annual General Meeting followed by the 1st Ordinary Meeting of new Management Team for 2018-19; and the issuing nationally of several media releases. (see reports below)

I welcome your feedback on the matters listed below. Please send comments and/or suggestions to office@hopeaustralia.org.au before 8 January 2019.

Have a happy, festive and safe Christmas – New Year!!

Regards,

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

2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Report (10 Nov 2018)

HOPE's AGM was held on Saturday 10 November and I'm pleased to announce the election of a near-full Management Team for 2018-2019.

2018-2019 Executive Committee members are:

- President - Frank Ondrus
- Vice-President - Steve Cupitt
- Secretary - Miriam Sharp
- Treasurer - Miriam Sharp
- Extra member selected from admin support staff listed below

Ordinary members who fulfil administration support roles are:

- Office Manager - Frank Ondrus
 - Newsletter Editor - Office with assistance from Gillian Tait
 - Website Administration - Stephen Warburton
 - Membership Office - Barry Miller
 - Social Media Administrator - Charmaine Turnbull, Gillian Tait and Hayley Lowe
 - Media Officers - vacant
 - Admin assistants - Ellen Wheeler
-

Report summary of 1st Ordinary Meeting of new Management Team for 2018-2019 (10 Nov 2018)

Because of limited time, only a few key items were discussed and they are noted below for your consideration.

Carried forward business items:

- Application to Federal Government for Listing on Register of Environmental Organisations
- Grant application to Federal Government's Volunteer program for a new computer
- Support for Place You Love (PYL) Alliance initiatives
- More promotion of UN Sustainable Development Goals

Suggestions for 2019 projects, campaigns, petitions, events and activities:

- Landcare/NRM projects by ourselves and/or in partnership with others
- Petition – Un Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty (<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>)
- Develop a series of Helpful Hints information sheets
- Back to Basics information to be promulgated and circulated via social media, newsletter and media
- Provide information displays at local and regional community events

Regular on-going tasks:

- Review & comment on state & national government discussion papers
 - Promote key "Environmental Observance" events
-

Develop a 5year Strategic Plan

- *Securing the future of HOPE*
 - *Goals for next 12months through to 5 years*
 - *Financial stability/security (see C/f item above)*
 - *Strengthen and “up-skill” our Management Team*
 - *Increase our profile nationally*
 - *Seek more alliances/partnerships*
 - *Increase our membership nationally*
 - *Link up with more like-minded EnvNGOs*
 - *Provide more support for existing and proposed national environmental campaigns*
 - *Other suggestions or “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities or Threats” (SWOT)*

Campaign and support suggestions needed

Are you aware of any upcoming environmental or sustainability campaigns – big or small? HOPE wants to get behind the right campaigns and projects as much as we can. If you know of a local project in your community, or an environmental campaign that people might have heard of but aren't sure how to help, please let us know. We can use our existing channels – our newsletter, social media, website and word of mouth – to show our support. If there is a particular theme or topic you are passionate about or want to hear more of, please also let us know – original ideas are always welcome too!

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
- Website Content Maintenance Assistant – required to perform weekly updates and routine maintenance as provided by Office Manager

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much-needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering a 15cm x 4cm sized 'strip' adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

Feature Articles



The Earth Charter - <http://earthcharter.org/>

By Remah Naji, HOPE member Qld

In June 2000, The Earth Charter (EC) was launched following the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development call in 1987 to create a charter that would introduce fundamental principles for sustainable development. A decade long of worldwide, cross-cultural dialogue that involved thousands of individuals and hundreds of

organisations resulted in the birth of the Earth Charter.

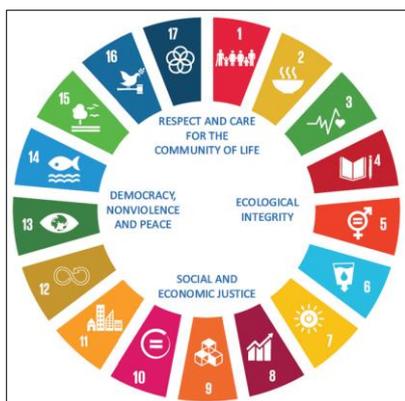
As the visions of experts from across the globe were brought together to form the Charter, the EC represents a “people’s treaty that sets forth an important expression of the hopes and aspirations of the emerging global society.”

The Earth Charter aims primarily to promote sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development that respond to the needs of the 21st century. It provides an inclusive ethical vision that emphasises the interdependency of environmental protection, human rights, equitable human development and peace. The principles of the Charter are based on four main pillars: respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, social and economic justice, and democracy, non-violence and peace.

The Preamble

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future . . . We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

The achievements of the Earth Charter are a true reflection of this preamble. Its programs and activities are designed for all different levels and ages; from empowering the youth to take leading roles towards justice and peace, to advocating for the harmony between humanity and ecosystem Earth. EC has acted as a key player in the global scene and its principles are being increasingly endorsed and implemented throughout the world.



Earth Charter Education Conference 2019

With its slogan “leading the way to sustainability 2030,” this conference brings together academics and practitioners who have been implementing the Earth Charter values in education to share experiences and research. It provides an opportunity to look into how they have provided learners with the knowledge and skills required to promote sustainable development. The Conference also offers training opportunities in integrating the Earth Charter to reinforce values of sustainability and global citizenship education. [Click here](#) for more information.

Planning for Sustainable Cities

This series of videos provides a guide that takes you through *Planning for Sustainable Cities*. It was created by Earth Charter International Secretariat based on an interview with Gwendolyn Hallsmith, the Founder and Executive Director of Global Community Initiatives (GCI). The videos stress the need for sustainable development as a new paradigm for cities around the globe. [Click here](#) to watch the series.





Online Certificate on Education for Sustainable Development

This program is aimed at primary and secondary educators, education professionals and academics in various areas and levels of education. With the Earth Charter being the primary feature of its approach, this certificate program is designed to enhance the capacities of educators by combining Education for Sustainable Development and Education for Global Citizenship. Learn more about the certificate program [here](#).

Queensland Global Citizenship Schools Program

The Earth Charter Committee of Australia, which works under the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), runs an exceptionally inspiring annual program: UNAA Queensland Global Citizenship Schools Program. It targets primary and secondary students across Queensland and motivates them to become active Global Citizens. This program paves the way for students to effectively contribute to the sustainable development and lead their communities towards this path. To learn more, visit <http://unaaglobalcitizens.weebly.com/>.

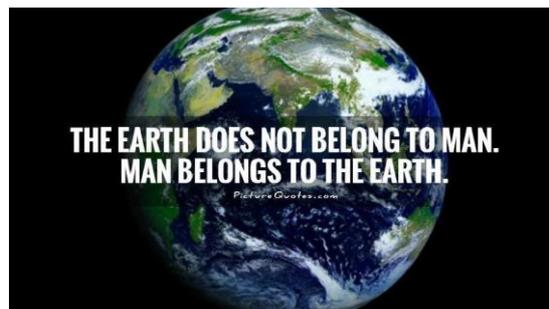


There are a number of ways that an individual or an organisation can be involved in the activities of the Earth Charter. It offers a variety of [youth and young leaders' programs](#) for one to get inspired and involved in this global movement. Moreover, the application of the EC values can extend to any field of work, with many [creative ways](#) to implement them.

Anyone can support the principles and values of the EC and apply them starting from home, workplace and the local community. Endorsing the Earth Charter means that one becomes an active player to achieve peace, justice and sustainability. To endorse EC, visit <http://earthcharter.org/endorse/>.

The successful implementation of the Earth Charter principles by [local communities](#) is yet another evidence of the value of bringing together worldwide views to our communities. Caring for this planet is a responsibility shared by all of us. The EC provides the opportunity for all to “think globally,” and “act locally.”

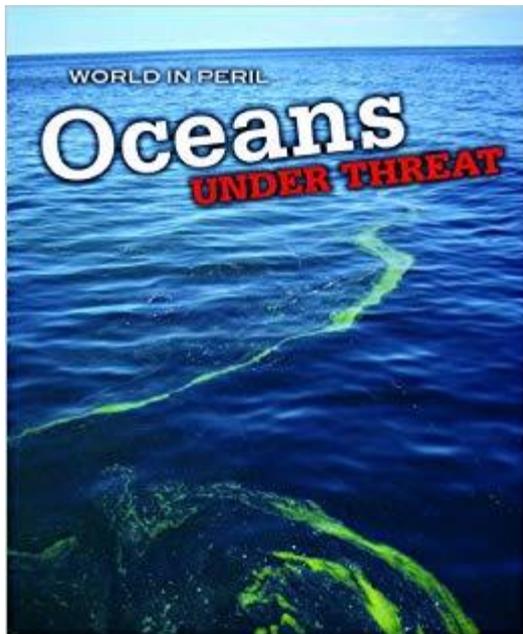
“The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more.”



World News

The Ocean's Peril

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



In the academic and public spheres, it is well known that global warming is having a direct influence on oceans in various ways. However, to what extent, is still being discovered by scientists around the world. The popular news source "The Guardian" has released an article regarding the magnitude of damage inflicted on the significantly large, but delicate ocean systems.

Thorough analysis of the oceans through satellite imagery has concluded that only 13% of the oceans have been unaffected by global warming, 5% of which are within marine protected areas. This means that there is practically no area of oceans that is inhabited by high levels of sea life.

In perspective, oceans cover 70% of our world, and we have found a way to disturb, capture, kill and/or make barren over 80% of it. When reading this we think to ourselves how horrible it is, and how could we have let this happen. We as humans have elected governments that prioritised profits over peace, coal energy over clean energy, private investors over public interest and focussed on the health of our economy rather than health of the environment. With governments subsidising \$4 billion a year on high sea fishing alone, how do we expect such figures to

change?

As long as we keep our mouths shut, the lives of all life around us falls in the balance. Unfortunately, such pleas fall on deaf ears until the problem becomes no longer a warning, but reality. Think to yourself what would it take? How bad does it need to get for you, personally, to voice your concern? If not for yourself, then for your children? What world do you want for the next generation of young people ... and when they are adults?



National News

Smart Villages, Smart Housing - www.sunvillages.com.au

Buckminster Fuller said that “**To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete.**”

Housing – is it right to have to spend a lifetime working for it? A roof over our head is probably the biggest financial challenge - more that 50% of people are unlikely to ever be able to save the ever-growing deposit required to purchase their own home, Of the remaining 50%, a lot are susceptible to mortgage stress, and the number would increase considerably if there was any rise in interest rates.

The consequences of our present models of housing can be overwhelming if you consider the financial, environmental and social issues and stresses that impact our daily lives. The suburban sprawl really only allows individuals to be **‘autonomous’** and they are praised as being **‘sustainable’** the more capital they outlay! As for multi-unit developments – they have far more potential to be ‘sustainable’ but are controlled by the ‘extractive’ or profit-making elements of housing.

We have a lot to learn by re-discovering the old ways of European settlements, and if we mix this with modern technology and big picture thinking, we can serve both people and the environment in a multitude of different ways.

‘FINANCIAL’ - it’s really the bottom line. The cost of essential services and commodities continues to increase due to numerous factors, and the consumer is funnelled into a model that works for the corporations but starts to exemplify the term 'wage slave' in unavoidable comparisons.

Affordability of day-to-day living is impacting on the quality of life at both ends of the life cycle, yet \$1.3 T of super money is invested in off-shore corporations that put profit in preference to protecting people and the planet. Some people are waking up to the fact that we need to take responsibility for what our money is doing and creating a Self-Managed Super Fund (SMSF), but the majority of us do not wish to take on the responsibility and have little interest in money above it providing them with a comfortable and sustainable life style.

What could happen socially, environmentally and economically if we brought this money home to work for a new sustainable model of housing for people, that saves the planet? We have worked with top professionals in tax, law, finance and been guided by permaculture principles to create a new, repeatable model of home-ownership, that has the potential to address all 3 **‘sustainable bottom lines’** and even make the affordable housing topic obsolete.

Our money – our responsibility. Of the people who had SMSFs, **80% had no property** in their portfolios (research disclosed that they actually couldn't afford property), and the 20% that could afford to have property, had **only property!** The implications of this are **very important**, significant and validating **to our model** where people can come together and invest in sustainable bricks and sticks - 'fractional real estate' - not having to own a whole property.

The Sun Villages model offers:

- an enhanced lifestyle for residents – they will never have to face a crisis of living affordability as the model allows them to reduce their actual cost of living significantly
- the potential of financial freedom that will never be available to renters – they can get into housing, and stop the clock on the real estate price rises, for as little as \$10,000
- an impact investment that is secure and safe, worry and work free – no rates, maintenance, vacancy or non-rental payment issues to deal with. A freedom from responsibility that is unavailable to most property owners and investors
- an investment return that rises with the wage’s component of the CPI, as well as the ability to free up money if required, for replacement of car, an emergency, other capital items or even a holiday
- to address issues of corporate misuse of our money via our super funds, bank forecloses and interest rate rises

By acting together (**Social Sustainability**), we have the potential to significantly reduced living costs, drastically improve the quality of our lives, and live in harmony with the planet - sustainably.



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

Why HSI?

Humane Society International (HSI) is the largest and most effective international charity working for a more humane and sustainable world for animals. We are leaders in saving endangered species and their habitats and reducing cruelty in farming, trade and other industries.

Our vision: A world where people treat animals and the environment with respect and compassion.

We base our positions on sound science and compassion for all animals. We advocate for strong policies and laws to protect animals and long-term ecological sustainability and when it is needed, we will take matters to court. We seek to change human behaviour to move from exploitation to compassion for animals. We directly intervene in cases where we can prevent suffering of individual animals and also work for long-term protection of species and habitat.

Our Work

Wildlife and habitat protection

HSI ensures threatened species receive legal protection through Australian laws as well as international treaties. We have had key successes in protecting sharks, whales, sea lions, albatross, koalas, flying foxes, orangutans, elephants and lions to name just a few.

Our scientific nomination program has seen more than 70 threatened species and millions of hectares of wildlife habitat protected in law. We continually advocate for improvements to those laws and for their enforcement. Our Wildlife Land Trust program helps protect habitat for rare and common species alike on several hundred Australian sanctuaries.

Animal Welfare

HSI is committed to reducing animal suffering and cruelty. We work to improve farming standards so that each animal has a life worth living and we have our own Humane Choice label to help people know the farm produce they are buying has the highest animal welfare standards.

We campaign to protect all animals cruelly exploited for their skins, horns and fins and are actively working to eradicate the cruel trade in dog meat in Vietnam, India, China, the Philippines, Indonesia and South Korea. We also protect animals abused for the racing, gambling and entertainment industries.

Humane Society International Australia

PO Box 439, AVALON NSW 2107 | (02) 9973 1728 | admin@hsi.org.au

HSI is a registered charity in Australia. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

