



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 2019 #01 --- January 2019

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,

The HOPE committee wishes all of you a happy and prosperous 2019. We at HOPE, hope our environment gets that opportunity to be improved in the year ahead.

To give you a jump start to initiating sustainable practices in 2019, we feature some interesting articles in this news bulletin.

I encourage you to read them and urge you "to get going" for a fantastic year ahead!

Regards,

Fiyomi Pigera, HOPE admin volunteer (Qld)

2019 National/International Events Calendar

<http://www.environment.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/events>

- [2014-2024 – International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)
- [2019 – International Year of Indigenous Languages](#)
- [2019-2028 – International Decade of Family Farming](#)

January

- **7 HOPE office reopens**, and we'd like to hear of your suggestions on the campaigns, events, programs and envNGOs we should be supporting this year. Also, we'd like to know of the issues you wish us to further explore and comment on. Please send your thoughts to office@hopeaustralia.org.au at your earliest convenience.

February

- 2 [World Wetlands Day](#)
- 9 **HOPE Ordinary Meeting**
- 11-12 [International Day of Women & Girls in Science](#)
- 26 [Business Clean Up Day](#)

March

- 1 [Schools Clean Up Day](#)
- 3 [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 3 [Clean Up Australia Day](#)
- 21 [International Day of Forests](#)
- 21 [Harmony Day](#)
- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 30 [Earth Hour](#)

Letter to the Editor

Dear HOPE

Re: Extinction Rates

According to the WWF, there is an exponential trend of extinction rates amongst the world's vertebrates. This statement has been supported by many news outlets such as Nature Magazine, and academic sources including a paper published by Ceballos et al, 2015, which discusses the accelerated human induced species losses that has been identified as the sixth mass extinction event. This report has been formulated based on evidences and data which have been observing and analysing the population statistics of certain key species over a period of 44 years. A relationship of extreme declines in population over the time-period has been identified.

WWF says that the greatest decline has been found to be located around the tropics, and is likely resulted from "the uncontrollable patterns of human consumption". An interesting analogy they use in their report is by imagining reducing the human population by 60%, "60% of the human population includes all of North America, South America, Africa, Europe, China and Oceania, that is the scale of damage we have caused". An interesting, but quite confronting reality.

However, there are studies that believe that other incentives or agendas maybe be influencing these statistics. Only last month Thomas Davies and his team of scientists (Davies et al, 2018) released a paper that opposes the evidence of the report released by WWF. The opposing paper explains that "popular interests in vertebrates does reflect extinction risk, and is actually associated with bias in conservation investment". They go on to explain in their analysis that they have revealed "a global bias in popular interest towards vertebrates that is undermining incentives to invest financial capital in thousands of species threatened with extinction. This raises the popular profile of these lesser known endangered and critically endangered species, which will generate clearer political and financial incentives for their protection.". So, ultimately a political game is at hand with the agenda of money. As we can see there may be more factors than meet the eye, as revealed in such reports.

However, unfortunately not much is expected to change as a result of the WWF report, as studies have shown that "shock statistics" and "doomsday warnings" around climate change have ceased to have any real influence on change. Other, more progressive approaches of communicating such information to the public must be found. This, along with the continued opposing views, it is difficult to trigger any real change in the political sphere and the general public.

References:

- Gerardo Cevallos; Paul R Ehrlich; Anthony D. Barnosky; Andres Garcia; Robert M. Pringle and Todd M. Palmer, 2015, *Accelerated modern human induced species losses: Entering the sixth mass extinction*, Science Advances, Vol 1, No 5.
- Thomas Davies; Andrew Cowley; Jon Bennie; Catherine Leyston; Richard Inger; Hzel Carter; Beth Robinson; James Duffy; Stefano Casalegno; Gwladys Lambert; Kevin Gaston, 2018, *Popular interest in vertebrates does not reflect extinction risk and is associated with bias in conservation investment*, <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0203694>

Regards,

Dan Bielich, B.Sc. – Climate Science, M.S. Env



HOPE News --- January 2019

Good morning,

Welcome to 2019!! I hope you all had an enjoyable break over the Christmas – New Year period.

The office computer started ‘powering down’ regularly, so I took it to Colmac Computers on 20 December for “a service”.

Our next scheduled quarterly Ordinary Meeting is on Saturday 9 February, commencing at 10am, at our place, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba.

I'd like you to think about possible projects, events, activities and issues you would like us to focus on in 2019 – noting that we are already committed to promoting:

- The Places You Love (PYL) Alliance and Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law's (APEEL) call for a new Generation of National Environmental Laws;
- United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – including HOPE's national petition urging the immediate signing of the United Nations (UN) Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Please send through your suggestions by 31 January for consolidation into the February meeting's agenda.

I'd also like to know how each of you are progressing with your respective assignments.

Lastly, we welcome new members Fiyomi Pigera (admin volunteer), Laure Ponnusawmy (researcher (WA)) and Mariana Marabini (researcher (Qld)).

Regards,

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

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
-

Feature Articles

The Mulloon Institute – <https://themullooninstitute.org/>

[The Mulloon Institute](#) is an innovative not-for-profit organisation aiming to measurably restore an entire water catchment in southern New South Wales for the benefit of the environment, farming and society.

The [Mulloon Community Landscape Rehydration Project](#) (MCLRP) aims to rebuild the Mulloon catchment's natural landscape function and boost its resilience to climatic extremes, which will lead to more reliable stream flows, improved ecosystem functioning and enhanced agricultural productivity.

The project focuses on creek repair and erosion control using small interventions to slow and filter water flow, preventing further erosion and beginning to rebuild the soil.

Interventions are made using natural materials and are complimented by holistic agricultural and landscape management practices, including sustainable grazing, fencing, tree planting, slope stabilisation and contouring. Spanning 23,000 hectares and 50 kilometres of creeks and tributaries, the MCLRP represents a major up-scaling of the successful Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) pilot project at Mulloon Creek Natural Farms.

The initial project resulted in a 60% boost to productivity on adjoining agricultural land while the creek was transformed into a healthy, vibrant ecosystem capturing flood sediments, recycling nutrients and providing valuable habitat. The wider catchment also saw improvements in water quality, water yield, and enhanced biodiversity from tackling soil erosion, habitat fragmentation and weed proliferation.

While the initial project was only along three kilometres of the creek, the MCLRP encompasses the entire catchment and is anticipated to have an equally significant impact on local agricultural productivity, waterway and landscape health, albeit on a far more extensive scale.

By helping rebuild the functionality and resilience of Mulloon Creek, its riparian corridor, tributaries, floodplains, wetlands, hills and woodlands, the MCLRP is supporting several threatened and vulnerable species, including the Scarlet Robin, Diamond Firetail, and Dusky Wood Swallow.

Community participation in the MCLRP includes 20 landholders across the catchment, and the Institute is working with government to develop guidelines for other catchment communities wanting to undertake similar projects.

Involving landholders in the scientific benchmarking and monitoring that accompanies the project benefits the science and gives landholders a deeper insight into the natural phenomena occurring on their properties and in the catchment. It also helps them develop a better appreciation of how their property influences, and is influenced by, the entire catchment.



(1977)



(2015)

The Institute actively shares its learning, experiences and knowledge of regenerative land management at its living laboratory at [Mulloon Creek Natural Farms](#) with field days, school tours, guided creek tours, training courses, workshops and internships. It also conducts training and workshops around Australia by appointment, most recently in northern Queensland.

The Institute's ground-breaking work has been recognised internationally by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network and in Australia by NSW Landcare and the Banksia Foundation. It has also captured the nation's imagination in a recent Australian Story episode on ABC TV that was the highest rating episode for the program so far this year, which you can watch online here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4OBcRHX1Bc>

For media queries, please contact:

Kelly Thorburn, Communications & Marketing, kelly@themullooninstitute.org, 0419 099 894

List of social media links

The Mulloon Institute

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/TheMulloonInstitute/>

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/TheMulloonInst>

Instagram – <https://www.instagram.com/themullooninstitute/>

Website – <http://themullooninstitute.org/>

Mulloon Creek Natural Farms

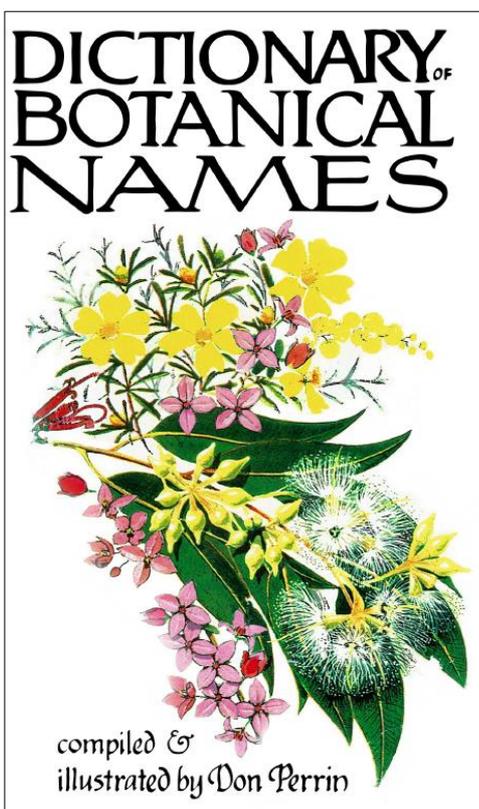
Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/MulloonCreekNF/>

Website – <http://mullooncreeknaturalfarms.com.au/>

Mulloon Consulting, Contracting and Certifying

Website – <http://www.mulloonconsulting.com.au/>

Advertisement



Dictionary of Botanical Names

I am really keen to tell you about the book called Dictionary of Botanical Names. It would be a valuable reference for you and your plant enthusiast friends.

Many seemingly complex botanical names - both native and exotic are derived from Greek or Latin. This is a well-researched, attractively illustrated 200page book for the meaning and derivation of botanical names which helps to explain these tongue-twisters.

The book is compiled and illustrated by my father, Don Perrin, who died just last year and was an early member of the Society for Growing Native Plants. Don played a key role in establishing Glenbrook Native Plant Reserve in NSW and was a founder of Redcliffe Botanic Gardens in QLD.

The Don Perrin Environmental Bursary continues today and there is a foreword in the book by Jan Sked, who authored a number of books on native plants.

RRP of \$29.95 plus Postage of \$8.65.

An attractively illustrated book about the meaning, derivation and application of Australian plant names.

Book sales & enquiries:

Mutiara Perrin

Mob: 0421 465 464 | Email: greendataprojects@gmail.com

 Join our Facebook Page: Dictionary of Botanical Names

World News



SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Written by Remah Naji, HOPE volunteer Qld

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were enforced in January 2016 as a continuation for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that successfully addressed the indignity of poverty. However, the SDGs tackle new areas, such as climate change, economic equality and peace and justice, to provide a comprehensive approach that guides the global development planning.

The SDGs, also called the Global Goals, were constituted in the Development Agenda *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in Paragraph 51. They represent a guiding strategy for the policies and funding priorities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) until 2030. They can be fulfilled through the support provided by UNDP to governments in order to incorporate the Global Goals into their national development strategies. However, UNDP is not alone in achieving this, as the enforcement and realisation of these goals are dependent on the cooperation of governments, the private sector, civil society and citizens.



The MAPS Approach

In order for the UN Development to put these goals into action, it integrated them into a common approach of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG): MAPS – Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support.

Mainstreaming

Making the 17 goals of development part of people's everyday lives by integrating them nationally and locally into policies, action plans and budgets. This also involves promoting the values behind these goals by informing the public and engaging meaningfully with civil society, businesses and the media. Importantly, the promotion of the goals cannot be by focusing on one goal at a time, but rather finding ways to advance in various SDGs.

Acceleration

The fulfilment of SDGs is context-specific, therefore, applying certain analytical tools to identify the accelerators in each country or society is a necessity. To reach a call to action that supports women and girls, for instance, would strengthen the economy, lead to safer childbirth and increase inclusiveness.

Policy Support

The UN provides policy support for countries willing to implement SDGs for their people. By this support, the UN aims to increase its impact to involve all aspects of developments: education, jobs, local governance, healthcare, biodiversity and clean energy.

SDGs in Australia



Australia is committed to SDGs as they reflect what Australians highly appreciate and aim to protect, such as “a clean and safe environment, access to opportunity and services, human rights, strong and accessible institutions, inclusive economies, diverse and supportive communities and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage.”

Australia’s ranking on the Global SDG Index, which provides a comparison among nations’ implementation of the goals, fell from 26th in 2017 to 37th in 2018. However, the [Australian SDG Voluntary National Review](#) was released in June 2018 to specify the fulfilment of SDGs in Australia since they were embraced in 2016.

The [Australian SDGs website](#) was also launched in June 2018 to offer an ongoing hub that brings together case studies that showcase Australian actions with regard to SDGs advancement. If you have a project that helps advance the Global Goals, you can add it to the platform [here](#).



SDG Pioneers

Individuals who actively engage with their companies to achieve sustainable development through remarkable actions are invited to submit applications for the 2018 SDG Pioneers campaign. The Pioneers should be effectively promoting at least one of the Global Goals while advancing their businesses and companies.

This global campaign was first launched in 2016, with over 600 submissions from 100 countries. This year’s Pioneers will be named during the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit on 24 September 2018.

Click to [nominate yourself](#) or [someone else](#).

How to contribute individually?

Although governments are committed to meeting the 2030 development agenda, these goals cannot be achieved without collective actions taken by individuals, organisations and civil society. Therefore, individuals have responsibilities towards achieving the global goals by changing certain behaviours in their everyday life.

These contributions might include turning off appliances after using them, using energy efficient appliances, taking shorter showers and, of course, recycling. Such basic everyday habits fall under a number of SDGs; affordability and clean energy, responsible consumption and production and climate action among others.

Further individual actions extend to refraining from texting, tweeting or checking social media while driving. These contribute to the good health and wellbeing goal.

Using refillable water bottles and coffee cups, which aligns with responsible consumption and production.

These are some simple, yet effective examples of how individuals can be part of this global movement towards economic, social and environmental development. Encouraging your organisation or community to adopt certain strategies to promote SDGs would fulfil a crucial purpose; that is to “think globally, act locally.”



National News

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY - <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au>

By Daniel Patava, HOPE volunteer Qld

'*Make Poverty History*' (MPH) is an international organisation that focuses on issues relating to aid, trade, and justice. Often described as a 'movement', MPH is a coalition of agencies based in many countries which work to raise awareness of global poverty. Their primary goal is the achievement of the first of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – that is, no poverty by 2030. Their various national campaigns fall under the banner of the '*Global Call to Action Against Poverty*'.

The Australian *Make Poverty History* campaign is coordinated by the *Australian Council for International Development* (ACFID) - a coalition of more than 60-member organisations drawn mainly from the Non-Government Aid and development sector. The mission of the Australian division of MPH is to campaign for more foreign aid, and to provide more opportunities to those who are impoverished or without community support. In November 2006, Melbourne hosted the 'Make Poverty History Concert' to align with the G20 Summit. Since then, MPH has continued to create awareness for the need for increased overseas aid, and for greater measures of effectiveness. They also continue to incite social mobilisation among people in Australia, and are often present at social and music events.

Currently, *Make Poverty History* is running the Campaign for *Australian Aid* - a joint initiative of the *Make Poverty History* and *Micah Challenge* coalitions, supported by the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation* (<http://australianaid.org/>). MPH is closely associated with a number of other development groups, including *Caritas*, *Greenpeace*, and *Anglican Overseas Aid*. Recently, *Australian Aid* and *Make Poverty History* successfully campaigned to double Australian foreign support to South Sudan, amid one of the worst famines in human history.

Both environmental degradation and poverty alleviation are urgent global issues that have a lot in common, but are often treated separately. The two are very often inter-related, which is why it is important for environmental organisations to work alongside these movements. Human-induced climate change is threatening an even bleaker future – one in which the most poverty-stricken are even less likely to make ends meet under reduced circumstances. As many places around the world become less biological diverse, many people have less access to the resources they need to support themselves. Environmental interest groups have an important part to play in securing a better future for everyone.

Make Poverty History continues to run the *Australian Aid* campaign. The *Australian Aid* twitter profile is constantly being updated, and is perhaps the best way to keep updated on their activities and objectives (<https://twitter.com/campaignforaid>). The MPH Australia website is also a great resource, and has an archive of media releases worth sharing (linked above).

Make Poverty History is actively seeking support for its *Australian Aid* Campaign. Volunteering in your electorate, or volunteering your business or community group, is the most effective way to get involved. Otherwise, signing up for the campaign on the website is a great way to show your support (<https://australianaid.org/#signup>).

