



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #03 --- March 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 afternoon folks,

Here's another good selection of articles for your reading pleasure.

Also, please take note of the President's message "The Future of HOPE" on page 2.

Regards,

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

2019 National/International Events Calendar

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

- [2019 – International Year of Indigenous Languages](#)
- [2019-2028 – International Decade of Family Farming](#)

March

2	Schools Clean Up Day
3	World Wildlife Day
3	Clean Up Australia Day
8	International Women's Day
11-17	National Ground Water Awareness Week
21	International Day of Forests
21	Harmony Day
22	World Water Day
23	World Meteorological Day
30	Earth Hour

April

18	World Heritage Day
18Apr-19May	National Trust Heritage Festival
22	Earth Day
27Apr-4May	World Parks Week

May

5-11	International Composting Awareness Week
7-9	OZWater'19
11	World Migratory Bird Day
20-26	National Volunteer Week
22	International Day for Biological Diversity
23	World Turtle Day
26	National Sorry Day
27May-3June	National Reconciliation Week

HOPE News --- March 2019

Good afternoon folks,

The Future of HOPE

HOPE's future can only be secured if we all work together.

Currently, the Management Committee is awaiting a decision on our application for listing on the national Register of Environmental Organisations.

If successful, we will be granted Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status which will allow us to:

- mount national fund-raising campaigns;
- access a greater range of grants; and
- initiate a fresh Sponsorship program.

Without funding, we are "hamstrung"! We may not be able to continue our current level of activities.

In the meantime, we seek stronger support from our members and friends.

Please support the following campaigns to which we are already committed,

- 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;
- The 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); and.
- The call for a bipartisan approach to developing a national "Climate Policy".

HOPE does not charge a membership fee; however, we do welcome monetary donations which can be made via our website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>.

Regards,

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

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include: Researchers; Media Officers; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Current volunteer positions available are:

- Researchers – required to review and comment on a range of discussion papers, policy documents and reports provided by government departments, business and industry organisations and NGOs.
 - **Media Officers** – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
 - Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets
 - Newsletter Editor – required to write and/or source articles and other items for compilation into monthly E: News Bulletin
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Feature Articles

Climate Change in the Australian Context

By Andrew Nicholson, HOPE member (Qld)

What is climate change?

I think there is probably an appropriate level of public understanding (at least in Australia) of the increased Greenhouse Gas production mechanism underlying climate change. In a nutshell, we are creating too many Greenhouse Gases from increased fossil fuel combustion and other developmental activities - and the atmospheric heat trapping properties of those gases is locking in increasingly destabilising levels of warming of the atmosphere and oceans. This in turn is leading to increased extremes of weather and knock-on exacerbation of natural weather events. A simple animated overview - as produced by the premier scientific body, The Royal Society (UK) sets out the basic nuts and bolts. This 2014 production still holds good in terms of the basic mechanisms. See: <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/projects/climate-change-evidence-causes/>. The same Royal Society website has some great downloadable resources on *Climate change: evidence and causes*.

The USA based Climate Reality Project also has some great resources – for example, see their article on *TELLING THE STORY: EIGHT GREAT INFOGRAPHICS ON CLIMATE CHANGE*. See: <https://www.climate realityproject.org/blog/telling-story-eight-great-infographics-climate-change>

Why is climate change happening now?

The more relevant question here might be: why human induced climate change is increasing so rapidly now – given that the climate has been gradually warming for at least the last one hundred or so years. The answer lies in the massively ramped up human fossil fuel combustion, deforestation and urban construction that has taken place since the 1950s. If you want an insight into the exponential impact of the human species on the planet more generally – not just on the climate- have a read around the topic of the Anthropocene, the crossing of ecological planetary boundaries (including climatic stability) and the exponential nature of these increases be they production of Greenhouse Gases, areas deforested, freshwater demand, the decline of marine fish stocks, soil erosion - the list sadly goes on.

See this article and infographics for a good overview: <http://www.anthropocene.info/great-acceleration.php>

What are the effects of climate change?

In my view this where the real focus needs to be put in any form of communication with the public and/or decision makers, because research as well as personal observation suggests that these effects are being grossly underestimated. Just consider the amazing, current disconnect between the extent of contemporary drought conditions in Australia and the clear exacerbating weather effects that climate change is having and will continue to have. This is where the complex **politics** of climate change in relation to fossil fuel mining and the psychological mechanisms underlying climate change denialism or fatalism come in. In Australia, the Climate Council is one of the 'go to' sources for good scientifically based reporting on climate change issues as they come up against political intransigence and other forms of wilful ignorance on climate change impacts in this country. See: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/8-new-years-resolutions-climate-change/>. Have a look at some of the Council's recent media releases to get a handle on this aspect: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/resource/media-releases/>

For your interest, have a look at the inspiring address of David Attenborough at the 2018 Global Summit in Poland: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SQaoTHjGGQ> and the calls at that summit of citizens from around the world to decision makers - to start acting on the issues rather than endlessly debating them. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/03/david-attenborough-collapse-civilisation-on-horizon-un-climate-summit>

Whilst there are individual actions that citizens and consumers can take to change their behaviour to lessen their Greenhouse Gas production, and these are important – the enhanced support and leadership of the political systems around the world is key to consolidating these forms of citizen action. It is political leadership that has been the key but sorely lacking contribution on the climate change challenge over the last 30 years or so.

For a sense of what might be possible on the citizen political advocacy front in Australia – have a look at the climate justice campaigning work of The Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC): <http://www.aycc.org.au/about>

National News

How to make your business green

Would you like to help to save the planet? The Australian Government's "Services for Business" website <https://www.business.gov.au/Risk-management/Environmental-impact> provides environmental information that can show you just how easy it is for your business to make a difference.

Whether you call it global warming or climate change, whether you want to help make Australia more energy independent or just want to reduce your energy bills, going green makes good sense.

By introducing good environmental management practices and reducing your environmental impact overall, your business can profit from cost savings through efficiency or productivity gains.

Here are some simple tips on how you can step up to the plate to do your part.

Check out environmental legislation. Staying on top of environmental legislation, licensing and labelling requirements is an essential first step toward greening your business. In many cases, this means obtaining applicable operating permits and taking the necessary steps to protect the environment and employees from toxic emissions.

Conduct an environmental audit. An environmental audit can tell you exactly how much energy you use and the amount of waste you dispose of, and can give you a basic indication of how your business impacts the environment.

Rally the troops. Have a team meeting to promote and discuss environmentalism in your business, this way the green initiative is a team effort and everyone will know what is involved.

Develop a recycling and waste reduction culture. Set up a workplace recycling system for paper, plastics, aluminum, glass and even electronic equipment. Encourage employees to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

Purchase eco-friendly products. You can prove your commitment to the environment by using eco-friendly products in your business.

Lower your water and energy needs. To save water, you should make sure that all dripping taps and leaks are repaired. Encourage employees to turn off lights, and other equipment when they are not in use.

Use energy efficient lighting and equipment. By using less electricity your business will save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The quickest thing you can do is to switch to low-energy use light bulbs. Next, if you have old equipment, it may be time to upgrade.

Dispose of toxics properly. You can create a plan to ensure that all your employees safely dispose of toxic substances such as cleaning supplies, computer and copier toner and solvents.

Take advantage of grants and assistance. Did you know that you can access grants and other funding programs for environmental projects from federal, state and territory governments and in some cases from your local council?

There are a number of funding programs that can help you deliver sustainable outcomes in energy, materials and water use.

Seek recognition for your environmental efforts. Put your business in the spotlight and apply for an environmental award. There are a range of awards offered by the Australian government that can benefit you by providing regular access to environmental management information, tools, training, newsletters and mentoring.

From starting an environmental plan to finding grants and financial assistance, you can find all the information you need to make your business green on [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au).

www.business.gov.au is the Australian Government's award-winning business website that offers you simple and convenient access to government business information, transactions and services. [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) is committed to making businesses green. Visit [business.gov.au](https://www.business.gov.au) today to find out how you can help the environment.

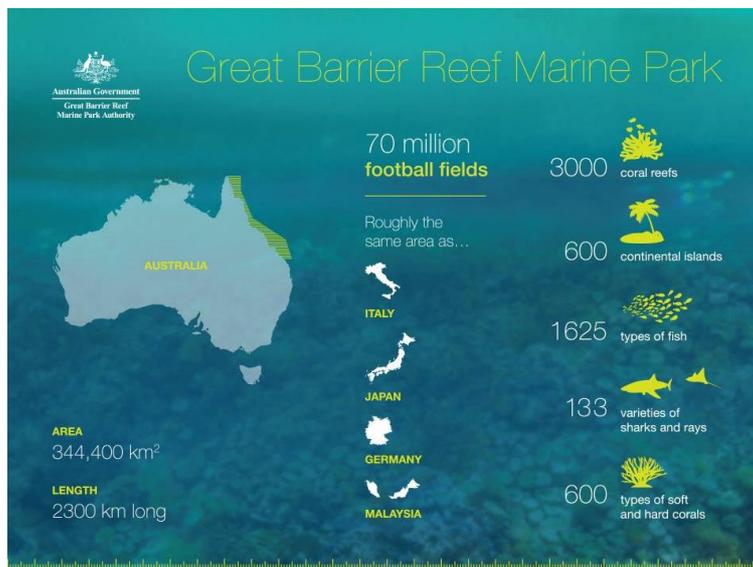
The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority - <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>

“Combined efforts to save the Reef”

Written by Zoe Nicolaou, HOPE Member (WA)



The Great Barrier Reef (GBR) is a breath-taking natural monument spanning over 14 degrees of latitudinal range along the north east coast of Australia. The reef is the largest coral reef ecosystem composed of 70 bioregions (broad-scale habitats), one of which is the mangroves, which represent 54% of the world's mangrove diversity. Claiming home amongst the reef are over 2900 species of coral, 1625 species of fish, 6 of the world's 7 species of sea turtles and of course the dugong. It is little wonder why this spectacle holds World Heritage status. Yet this stunning landscape is struggling for survival with the main recorded threat being climate change and the subsequent rise of temperatures and sea levels. Over the last five years the reef has been severely affected by back to back years of coral bleaching, disease, cyclones, flood plumes and invasion by the Crown of Thorns star fish. Some of the most significant of these events were recorded within the last five years alone, preventing a normal recovery period for the reef and its inhabitants.

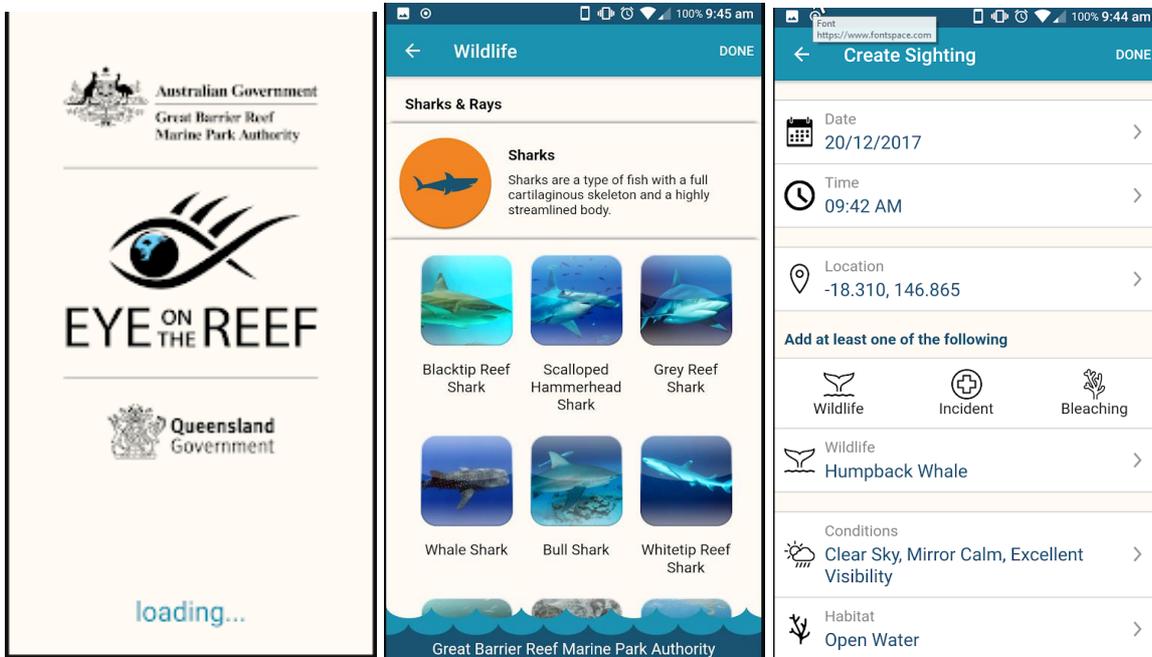


(Image sourced from <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/the-reef/reef-facts>)

In an age of big industry and with a growing influx of tourists maintaining the balance and wellbeing of such a widespread delicate ecosystem is quite the undertaking. This role is upheld by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). The GBRMPA community includes four Reef Advisory committees and 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees. These committees utilise the most up to date scientific reports to better manage the preservation of the reef which includes water and field management, education, monitoring and enforcing zoning rules with the assistance of local community groups and authorities. The GBRMPA board reports to the Federal Environment Minister and is split into the following four branches:

- Reef Engagement;
- Corporate Services;
- Reef Protection, and
- Reef Strategy.

The GBRMPA boasts a tech savvy monitor and reporting system accessible by any member of the public. The 'Eye on the Reef' app. (which is available on both the Google and iTunes app stores) aims to promote reef health through educating visitors and providing current information on weather, rules and any warnings. The main aspect of this app enables users to report all types of wildlife including turtles, dugongs and sharks. These reported observations can either be photographed or videoed and through the app are submitted to GBRMPA. These recordings assist in populating the GBRMPA's database which contribute to knowledge about diversity, habitats and the abundance and range of the marine fauna. Though the app. records data on wildlife, it also permits users to report any sightings of events such as pollution, coral bleaching or damage, crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks as well as sick/injured wildlife. All sighting can be viewed on the Sightings Network website: <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/sightings-network/>



(Eye on the Reef app is available on both Android and Apple operating systems. Pictures sourced from <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.thinkspatial.eyeonthereef>)

The Great Barrier Reef *catchment area* runs adjacent to the area of the Great Barrier Reef designated as World Heritage. This stretch of land comprises roughly twenty five percent of Queensland's land mass. The GBRMPA works alongside the communities and industry within this catchment to achieve the aim of building a healthier and more resilient reef. As such, the GBRMPA runs the Reef Guardian program, which recognises the environmental achievements of communities and industries have made towards the protection and preservation of the reef. This program showcases the results of a community-based approach whose participants, on a voluntary basis, go above and beyond to make a difference to the health of the reef. This program encourages local marine committees, scientific and wider communities to collaborate on local projects such as:

- The Reef Guardian schools, which currently involves over 270 schools;
- Reef Guardian Councils program;
- Reef Guardian Fishers; and
- Reef Guardian Farmers and Graziers program.

Though the road to recovery for the Great Barrier Reef is still far beyond the foreseeable future, such an effort to preserve this delicate and unique global wonder, provides an optimistic outlook for the reef. The GBRMPA encourages all help whether financial, as a volunteer or just the chance to educate the wider public on how they can help. All information and contact details can be located on their website <http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/about-us>.

Additionally, they maintain a strong social media presence through the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/GreatBarrierReefMarinePark/>

<https://www.instagram.com/gbrmarinepark/>

<https://twitter.com/gbrmarinepark>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheGBRMPA>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/great-barrier-reef-marine-park-authority>

NSW News



The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
- <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd is a non-profit, non-government charity that works for the protection of wilderness and national parks.

Formed in 1968 to save the southern Blue Mountains from destruction by limestone mining and forestry – it continues to be a fighting force for wilderness protection in Australia.

What we do

The Colong Foundation has earned a reputation for forceful and creative campaigning.

In 1987, the Foundation-proposed, NSW Wilderness Act was enacted, so far protecting more than two million hectares of wilderness and precious wildlife habitat.

In 2000, innovative Colong Foundation campaigning resulted in the successful listing of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Wilderness, a lasting legacy

Wilderness is undisturbed by modern society, and comprises natural areas large enough to allow long-term preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. Yet wilderness is disappearing globally at an alarming rate, threatening our future.

Wilderness helps makes Australia special – we are fortunate to have extensive wild places, some within a short distance of our cities. In NSW, half the wilderness remains unprotected and there are mounting pressures to 'tame' and exploit nature for short-term gain.

Reserving wilderness ensures the survival of native plants and animals by keeping their habitat safe from harmful activities.

The intact diversity of wilderness also provides the best chance for wildlife to survive the duress of climate change and is the best option to secure healthy air and pure water systems. Its unspoilt natural beauty is the beating heart of our national park estate.

Wilderness provides the necessary inspiration for an ecologically sustainable society. Immersed in the natural complexities of wilderness we can renew our sense of wonder and rediscover who we are because wilderness made us who we are!

Wilderness in Australia is vulnerable:

Become a Colong Foundation member and help us protect wilderness for future generations.

Join or donate on-line visit: <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/join-donate>

OR mail this form to:

The Treasurer Colong Foundation for Wilderness Ltd
Level 2, 332 Pitt St, Sydney, NSW 2000

Access our free newsletter: <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/resources/bulletins>



'Reclaim Kosci' campaign - Honouring wilderness

by Keith Muir



What are the real value of national parks and wilderness areas? Can it be that in 2018 we still don't know what national parks are for? It appears we do not. Access to vast knowledge, GIS data, science and respect for first nations has not ensured our leaders and social commentators give credible answers to these questions.

The intrinsic value of national parks and especially wilderness, does not equate to opportunities for adventure or outdoor exercise, although these can be provided. Our national parks are a mirror enabling us to focus on our history and culture in the context of deep time of the natural sciences, although these things are also not the primary purpose of wilderness.

Intact wilderness is vastly more valuable than its parts, but as we have seen from special laws for Warragamba Dam, Snowy 2.0 and 'horse heritage' it's not valued, even in a monetary sense.

The wilderness we know today is a product of biota interacting with climate and the earth's natural systems for hundreds of millions of years. On the way coal deposits have formed, marsupials and flowering plants have evolved to become our fiery Australian bush with which we have such a complex relationship. And we have evolved from it too.

The rationale for national parks and wilderness is to leave something for wildlife, for nature, unimpaired for future generations. We are not talking about an aspirational goal, but society's duty to provide effective natural area management to ensure wilderness thrives.

The NSW National Parks and Wilderness Service (NPWS), our conservation flag bearer, must have the wherewithal to conserve and restore large intact natural areas and permit natural processes to proceed, reasonably unimpaired. It is not hands-off management but a finely-tuned art based on generations of accumulated corporate knowledge. We must assist the NPWS to do its best to manage fire for nature, to eliminate pest species, and manage the biggest problems in any park, often ourselves. In a way, the NPWS practises bush care, and bush regeneration at the landscape scale to ensure the wild remains intact or is restored to that condition, using the best science to do it. When they do that, we hardly notice anything has been done, that is the beauty of good management, it is usually a light touch, or seems that way.

Now (not for the first time) the NPWS is under siege and needs our help. Managing parks for nature's sake is being attacked with some really crazy notions, the most recent sortie being the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018*, an example of National Party interference in the management of our largest national park. It overlooks the fact that horses are now so numerous that they are dying of starvation.

For decades a battle has raged over the effective management of feral horses. The feral horse has been used to attack the NPWS and national parks. The new law requires an entirely foreign form of management, to manage this pest species as if it has heritage value. Management based on romantic *Man from Snowy River* notions will see more horses suffer cruel deaths and the severe degradation of protected natural grasslands through heavy overgrazing.

It is time to claim back from the exploiters wilderness and national parks that are for nature. The heritage horse law must be repealed and science-based feral horse management reinstated. The 'Reclaim Kosci' campaign is leading this defence – more information is available at www.reclaimkosci.org.au .

We humans evolved mere millions of years ago, a blink in geological time. If we do not want to become extinct like many species before us, we must learn to live within the natural limits of our earth – there is no planet B. Kosciuszko National Park is as good a place to start as anywhere.