



## 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](mailto: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 #04 --- April 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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

#### Editorial

Good morning folks,

Today is April's Fools Day – but make no mistake, the Australian Government should not take us as fools for wanting to conserve and protect our environment. This coming election, “Vote 1 for the Environment”.

Please support the Australian Panel of Experts in Environment Law's (APEEL) <http://apeel.org.au/> recommendations for a new generation of national environmental laws.

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

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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

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18 [World Heritage Day](#)  
18Apr-19May [National Trust Heritage Festival](#)  
22 [Earth Day](#)  
27Apr-4May [World Parks Week](#)

#### May

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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](#)

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## HOPE Office News --- April 2019

Good morning folks,

The month of March was full of excitement and optimism as the youth of Australia held Climate Protest marches on around Australia.

Here, in the office, we focused on recruiting new volunteers and seeking grants to undertake projects. We also took the opportunity to share our stash of promotional resources with 2 local schools.

During April, we will continue our efforts to support the Places You Love (PYL) Alliance - <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> ; and the promotion of our petition seeking the Australian Government's signing of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - <https://www.change.org/p/australian-government-support-the-un-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons> .

Regards,

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

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### 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
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(HOPE members at 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo)

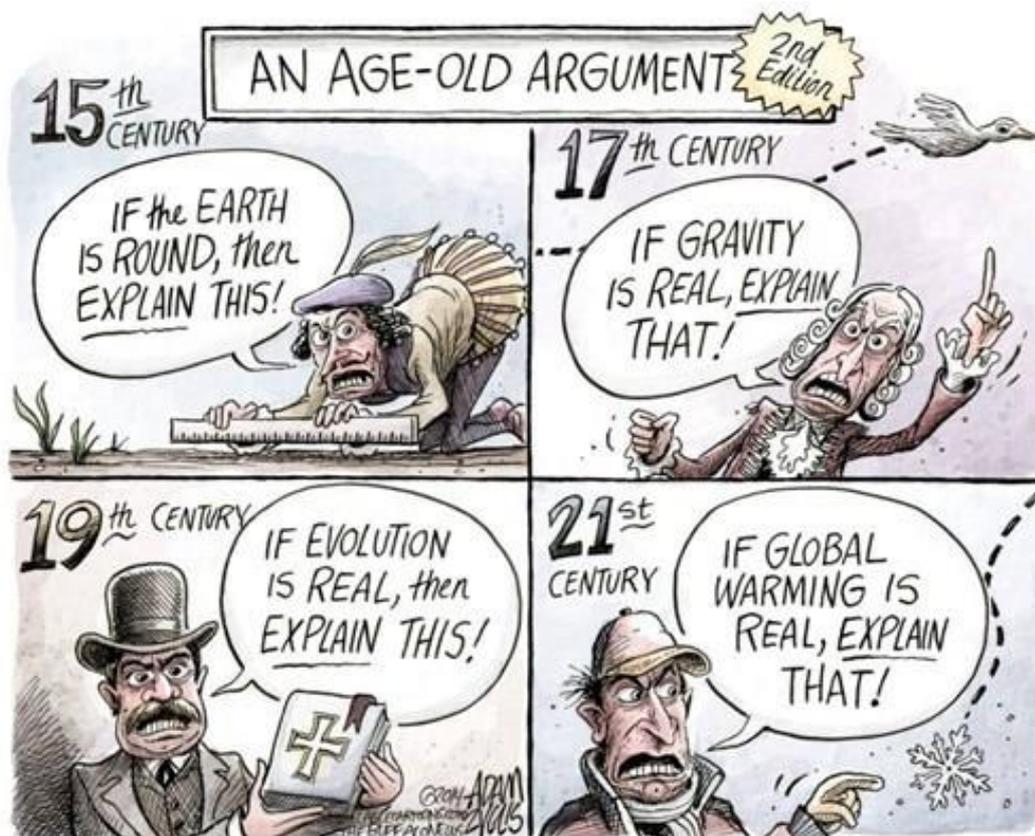
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## Feature Article

### The Power of One

By Alexandra White

Today's world is faced with many daunting environmental issues – more so than ever before in history. Biodiversity loss, deforestation, pollution of the air, land and sea and global warming are some of the intimidating and all too familiar crucial environmental issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How can we hope to resolve such mountainous and multifaceted problems? Problems that impact every living organism on Earth? We know that with each day, seas are warming and temperatures are rising, altering beautifully diverse and awe-inspiring ecosystems. With each loss, we seem to become more unsure of our ability to change. Apathy, blame and cynicism seep into conversation at every level. From politicians and policymakers, international and local news outlets to social media and the business market. It's vital that we are aware of our global impact and have conversations with all facets of society. We need to take responsibility for the world's environmental degradation - however to point fingers and blame others, whether its foreign nations, other communities, even certain generations, is to remove one's own responsibility. Now that we are aware of the issues, let's educate and communicate.



(Image via the Cagle.com)

The 'segregation of generations' is a reoccurring theme with the younger half of society being generalized as lazy and entitled to an instant gratification and wasteful culture. On the other hand, baby boomers are blamed for the current environmental state, dependence on fossil fuels and an inflated cost of living. This blame game is dangerous as it removes responsibility from individuals whilst contributing nothing productive to the conversation. Understand that we are all one species with billions of individuals with different lives, experiences and contextual issues to deal with. Whether its cultural, societal, mental, economic, health-related or financial - at the end of the day, we all belong to the same species that has accomplished incredible things in the past and that I am confident will continue to create incredible things every day.

Everyone is part of this global problem and perhaps this is an opportunity to unite for a greater cause and for our future. Everyone may be part of the problem, but whether it's researching plastic-eating microbes or simply donating \$1 towards a local conservation group, everyone can be part of the solution. I will leave the reader with some global conservation success stories that I feel go largely unrecognized which seems unfair to all the people involved in these triumphs.

1. In 2002, China decided to reforest 5% of the nation (or 440, 000 km<sup>2</sup>) and is the largest rewilding project ever undertaken in history.
2. In the late 1800's, the Southern White Rhino was down to 50 odd individuals and on the brink of extinction. Today, there are 11, 000 and the population is healthy and growing!
3. Today, there are approximately 44, 000 wildlife reserves equating to 10% of the Earth's land surface being protected areas for ecosystem services and wildlife. IUCN has labelled this one of the greatest conservation achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The most powerful thing that everyone from all walks of life can do is to engage in productive and open conversations. Shift your world view to one where you vote with your dollar (because you do!), where everything is biologically connected (because it is!) and where one person can make a difference (because they can!) Nature is so resilient and powerful to have coped with man's extremely intensified presence this far. Now it's time to give back.

Whether it's reducing your red meat consumption, composting, disposing of waste responsibly or engaging with friends and family about the reality of anthropogenic climate change - whatever is easiest and doable for you are all habits that can become powerful lifestyle changes. To absolve oneself of the blame game and to focus solely on one self's transition towards a sustainable lifestyle is the most empowering and effective way to help humanity towards a more ethical and prosperous future.

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## Resources



**Elementa - <https://www.elementascience.org/>**  
*By Dan Bielich, B.Sc. – Climate Science, M.S. Env*

*Elementa* is an online platform that operates as an open access scientific journal, meaning the general public is able to access scientific literature for free. The topics that are published on this platform include physical, chemical, biological earth systems and their interaction with human society. It also concentrates on mitigation and adaptation to global change. *Elementa* believe that "embracing the concept that basic knowledge can foster sustainable solutions for society".

With such a wide range of topics this platform enables the general public to become involved and educated in the current environmental issues that are occurring all over the world. The types of articles that are published on this article vary heavily to accommodate many types of people. These range from research articles, to commentaries, comment and replies to policy bridges. By providing this free access to such key information it bridges a relationship between the scientific community and the general public which is an important relationship to build and sustain.

The special features section of the online platform address projects that of broad interest, and consists of 4-10 articles which are followed by a commentary for clear explanation allowing even those that do not have a heavy scientific background to understand that information provided.

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## 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@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

## National News



**Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)**

<http://www.caha.org.au/>

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)



The Climate and Health Alliance is a coalition of health sector groups and individuals advocating for climate action to protect and promote people's health

### Main Aims

In 2009, the international medical journal *The Lancet* called for a public health movement focussing on the relationship between climate change and human health in response. The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) was formed in 2010. It brings health professionals together to seek policy change in order to reduce the danger to people's health from climate change and ecosystem destruction. If global warming continues, it will not only present "**grave risks to human health and biodiversity**", but ultimately "**threaten the future of human civilisation**".

Some of CAHA's achievements include: publications, research reports, health advocacy, policy submissions, partnerships, community engagement, seminars and production of a revolutionary short film. Perhaps its greatest success has been the influence on policy at local, state and federal level. Current campaigns include: a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-Being, the Health Care Climate Challenge to commit to emissions reduction targets, and the Healthy Energy Initiative which encourages the transition to clean renewable energy sources.

CAHA also run several projects:

1. Global Green and Healthy Hospitals
2. Health and Well-Being Climate Adaption Plan for Queensland
3. Investing in Health - Divestment from Fossil Fuels
4. Health and Energy Choices
5. Coal and Health in the Hunter

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"Widespread scientific consensus exists that the world's climate is changing. Some of these changes will likely include more variable weather, heat waves, heavy precipitation events, flooding, droughts, more intense storms, sea level rise, and air pollution. Each of these impacts could negatively affect public health."

– The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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## Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA)

<https://www.dea.org.au/>

*(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)*

### Main Aims

Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) had its roots in a desire to form an organisation of doctors concerned about the environment. Between 1999 and 2000, an advertisement in the Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) was placed along with an invitation to join. Following formation in 2001, the vision has been **“Healthy Planet, Healthy People”**.

DEA has interests in the following areas:

1. **Climate Change:** Climate change is the “most serious, and growing, worldwide threat to human health and survival and to social stability”. DEA highlights destructive technologies and short-term economic policies.
2. **Coal:** Coal, when burnt, emits sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, mercury and arsenic. Australia is one of the worst carbon polluters in the world; 80% of our electricity comes from coal. A rapid transition from coal-based power generation to renewables is needed.
3. **Unconventional Gas:** The chemicals used and released in the process of gas production pollute water, land and air. The release and leakage of methane also adds to greenhouse gas.
4. **Renewable Energy:** Wind, wave and solar energy are not proven to have any health impact. Rather, they will contribute to achieving our target to halt world temperature rise to less than 2°C.
5. **Biodiversity:** DEA is especially focused on biodiversity and its importance in human health. One third of our medicines have been derived from nature; our ecosystems also support our health in air filtration, clean water and food, regulate climate and prevent disease spread.
6. **Air Pollution:** This is carcinogenic as stated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. A reduction in air pollution will decrease stroke, heart disease, lung cancer and asthma. Policy change in fossil fuel reliance, including transport and power generation is required.
7. **Forests:** **Over half of the earth’s forests have been cleared.** This equates to removing biodiversity, clean air, water and food, and releasing carbon to the atmosphere. Soil salinity and erosion also increase.

Just as its interests are diverse, so too are DEA’s activities: engaging with politicians, media, policy makers, parliamentary inquiries and publications.

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## The Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science - <https://www.jcu.edu.au/tess>

The Centre for Tropical Environmental and Sustainability Science (TESS) is based at James Cook University. TESS focuses on the wise management, conservation and sustainable use of tropical terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in both Australia and internationally.

Each year, TESS hosts their annual retreat, offering a great way for researchers to stay connected and keep updated on the many diverse fields covered by TESS. Each researcher is invited to present a 3-minute talk on their research, often these are the highlight of the retreat.

Stand out presentations included:

- “A SAD model for a happy story: how the Sunda-Sahul Floristic Exchange contributed to the mega-diversity of the Malesian flora” presented by post grad Elizabeth Joyce.
- “The Monsoon and the Red Herring” presented by early career researcher Jordahna Haig

### Flagship Projects:

Another highly anticipated topic at our TESS retreats – Flagship Projects. Through several cutting-edge flagship research areas, TESS addresses pressing, complex and interdisciplinary issues in sustainable development.

## Reducing the Global Impacts of Rapid Infrastructure Expansion

Projections suggest that by 2050 there will be 25 million kilometres of new paved roads – enough to encircle the Earth more than 600 times. In addition, some 3,700 major hydroelectric dams and hundreds of thousands of mining projects are in development worldwide. Roughly nine-tenths of these projects are occurring in developing nations, which sustain many of the planet’s most biologically diverse and environmentally important ecosystems.

In this Flagship Project, we are focusing on:

- The direct and indirect impacts of roads and other infrastructure on native species and ecosystems, especially in the tropics
- Devising strategies to minimise the environmental impacts and maximise the socioeconomic benefits of new infrastructure
- Conveying to policy makers and the general public the grave dangers posed to native ecosystems by poorly planned infrastructure projects

## Sustainable Tropical Agriculture

By 2050, more than half of the world’s population will live in the tropics, and livelihoods will largely depend on agriculture. Growing populations, wealth, and urbanisation are driving the expansion and intensification of agriculture in the tropics. At the same time, there is widespread degradation of soil and ecosystems, on farm, in the surrounding landscape, and downstream. This Flagship Project provides supports to farmers, their advisors and regulators to pass the land on to future generations in better shape than it was received.

Together with farmers, this flagship aims to improve:

- Understanding of agro-ecological processes
- Management strategies and tools for improving productivity, resistance to pests, diseases and climate extremes, and condition of soil, water and the atmosphere
- Methods for assessing agroecosystem condition and functions and informing land use and management decisions

## Invasive Species and Biosecurity in Tropical Australia

Tropical Queensland is a hotspot of opportunity for the introduction of invasive species, such as weeds, plant pathogens, invasive ants, and Asian honey bees, with millions of dollars spent on control efforts to date. This flagship project examines how land-use changes affect disease vectors, such as mosquitos and ticks. Additionally, the project is monitoring selected wildlife species, such as birds, as potential pathogen hosts. The project will look at the potential for land-use change, including habitat fragmentation and the expansion of agriculture and irrigation project, to increase disease vectors.

This Flagship Project focuses on:

- The ecology and control of invasive species in far northern Queensland, and
- Landscape epidemiology and infectious diseases.



## Queensland News



**Angligreen - <https://angligreen.org.au/about-us/>**  
(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

### Main Aims

Angligreen is a recognition by the Anglican Church of Australia that part of their ministry is to safeguard the environment. It was established in Brisbane in June 2007 to fulfil the Worldwide Anglican Communion's Mark of Mission "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the Earth". This includes the respect shown to indigenous groups who were its original custodians, and have been subject to "unjust structures of society".

Angligreen seek to fulfil this mission by prayerfully providing leadership, fellowship, education, outreach and advocacy. It encourages members of its Diocese to:

**REVERENCE** for all of Creation.

**REFUSE** to use resources unnecessarily.

**REDUCE** consumption and waste.

**REUSE** resources where appropriate.

**RECYCLE** materials where possible.

**REPAIR** rather than throwing away.

**RESTORE** habitat and ecosystems.

Angligreen aims to reduce the environmental footprint and conduct environmental audits of its member churches. At the same time, it encourages churches to enjoy the environment we inhabit and educates people regarding it. Advocacy plays an important role, for example in contacting politicians, establishing community gardens, sustainability projects and Bushcare groups.



### An overview of Southern Queensland NRM

Southern Queensland Natural Resource Management Ltd (SQ NRM) has been established in recognition of local knowledge and a commitment to community development through natural resource management.

The new company is committed to delivering a fresh approach to NRM activities in Southern Queensland and will be strongly focused on on-ground delivery. Work will be community-led and informed by local land managers and the community.

This approach involves respecting and including western scientific and Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and assessing the planning and management of natural resources at a whole-of-catchment level.

SQ NRM unites the three regions formerly managed under South West NRM, Condamine Alliance and Queensland Murray Darling Committee covering a total of 39,664,200 ha, and has been established with the full support of the three organisations.

The organisation is Australia's newest regional NRM organisation and it is the first time a new regional NRM organisation has been created to cover multiple existing regions as a better way to support the community.

SQ NRM became operational on 1 July 2018 and has a skills-based board that is appointed to oversee the strategic delivery of community based natural resource management across the Southern Queensland region.

The Board of Directors consists of an independent Chairperson and six Directors. Three Directors are from the East sub-region and three Directors are from the West sub-region. Directors have a mix of natural resource management and corporate governance skills.

Everyone living and working in southern Queensland are invited and encouraged to connect with SQ NRM by subscribing to the e-newsletter and following social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

For further information visit [www.sqnrnm.com.au](http://www.sqnrnm.com.au) or email [admin@sqnrnm.com.au](mailto:admin@sqnrnm.com.au).