



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #05 --- May 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,

Our feature article this month is on Climate and Health Alliance's (CAHA) "Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia" (pages 3-5) ... it's good reading!

HOPE will be attending the 2019 Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) on Sunday 26 May – so, if you are in the area, please drop in and say hello.

HOPE's next Ordinary Meeting for members is on Saturday 8 June and will be held at the home of Frank and Mary Ondrus – which doubles as the HOPE office. Local members and friends are invited to come along and meet some of the committee – as well as share stories on environmental interests or issues of concern.

For those of you unable to attend the meeting because you are out of town, inter-state or overseas, please email your agenda items by Wednesday 5 June.

Lastly, we welcome volunteer Marie Yandog who is our new Website Administrator.

And now, with the website content being fully up-to-date, I invite you to have a browse!

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](#)

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
26	HOPE information display at 2019 Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF)
27May-3June	National Reconciliation Week

June

5	World Environment Day
8	World Oceans Day
8	HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting
15	Global Wind Day
17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

July

7-14	NAIDOC Week
11	World Population Day
26	Schools Tree Day
28	National Tree Day

HOPE Office News --- May 2019

Good morning folks,

HOPE's 2 upcoming events are our information display at the 2019 Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) on Sunday 26 May – full event information may be found at <https://www.logan.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/environmental-programs/logan-eco-action-festival-leaf>; and our quarterly Ordinary Meeting for members and supporters on Saturday 8 June.

The Ordinary Meeting for members is on Saturday 8 June and will be held at the home of Frank and Mary Ondrus – which, as you know, doubles as the HOPE office. Local members and friends are invited to come along and meet some of the committee – as well as share stories on environmental interests or issues of concern.

For those of you unable to attend the meeting, please email your agenda items by Wednesday 5 June.

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
 - **Social Media Assistants** – to help research and post items to our Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - 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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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!

Please forward your suggestions to the HOPE office at office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Feature Article

Climate and Health Alliance's (CAHA) Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia: an overview.

By Alessio Claudi, HOPE member Qld

Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia can be downloaded here: http://www.caha.org.au/national_strategy_framework_launch.

CAHA

The Climate and Health Alliance is a coalition of health care stakeholders who work together to look at the threat to human health from climate change and ecological degradation addressed through prompt policy action. The membership of CAHA includes organisations and individuals from across the health sector, with organisations representing health care professionals from medicine, nursing, public health, social work and psychology, as well as health care service providers, research and academic institutions, and health consumers' (CAHA 2018). CAHA's comprehensive structure and membership allows it to have a broad view and strong experience in the health sector, and in the peculiarities that it entails. Their aims and focus are in producing practical policy advice and in providing an expert voice in health-related matters, which has led to the creation of the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.

The Framework and its aims

The Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia was prepared by three members of CAHA: Nick Horsburgh, Fiona Armstrong and Vanora Mulvenna. The Framework is a document that offers an analysis of the correlation between health and climate change, and it provides practical advice and is intended for government and policy makers to help them to act on climate change. Numerous organisations and experts have collaborated to the realisation of this document, due to the interdisciplinarity and the complexity of a framework that offers solutions on many levels, and practical advice on the issues that regard the relationship between climate and health (1). The foreword of the Framework is by Professor Peter Doherty, Nobel Laureate for Medicine, highlights the urgent need of action on climate change and the detrimental effects on health and well-being that will increase in the coming decades. Moreover, he highlights that Australia does not have a strategy on how to tackle the problem of climate change and its health-related issues, and that the Framework offers an effective roadmap that can be embraced and applied by policy-makers and government (CAHA 2016, p. 2).

The Framework has seven areas of policy:

- Health-promoting and emissions-reducing policies
- Emergency and disaster-preparedness
- Supporting healthy and resilient communities
- Education and capacity building
- Leadership and governance
- A sustainable and climate-resilient health sector
- Research and data

These seven areas highlight the wide scope of the Framework and remind us once more how climate change affects our environment. Health is strongly connected with the quality of our environment and its preservation. The Framework is based on two main concepts: prevention of climate change effects and mitigation of the current issues related to climate change. Both of them are aimed to ensure a better future for our environment.

Probably for the first time, the document offers policy recommendations with practical advice and ideas tailored to the Australian situation. By doing this it provides a scheme that is *ready to be used* by policy-makers.

Also, the Framework is centred on the costs that climate changes has for the collectivity. These costs are not only financial, they pay particular regard to a series of health-related issues as can be seen in the diagram below.

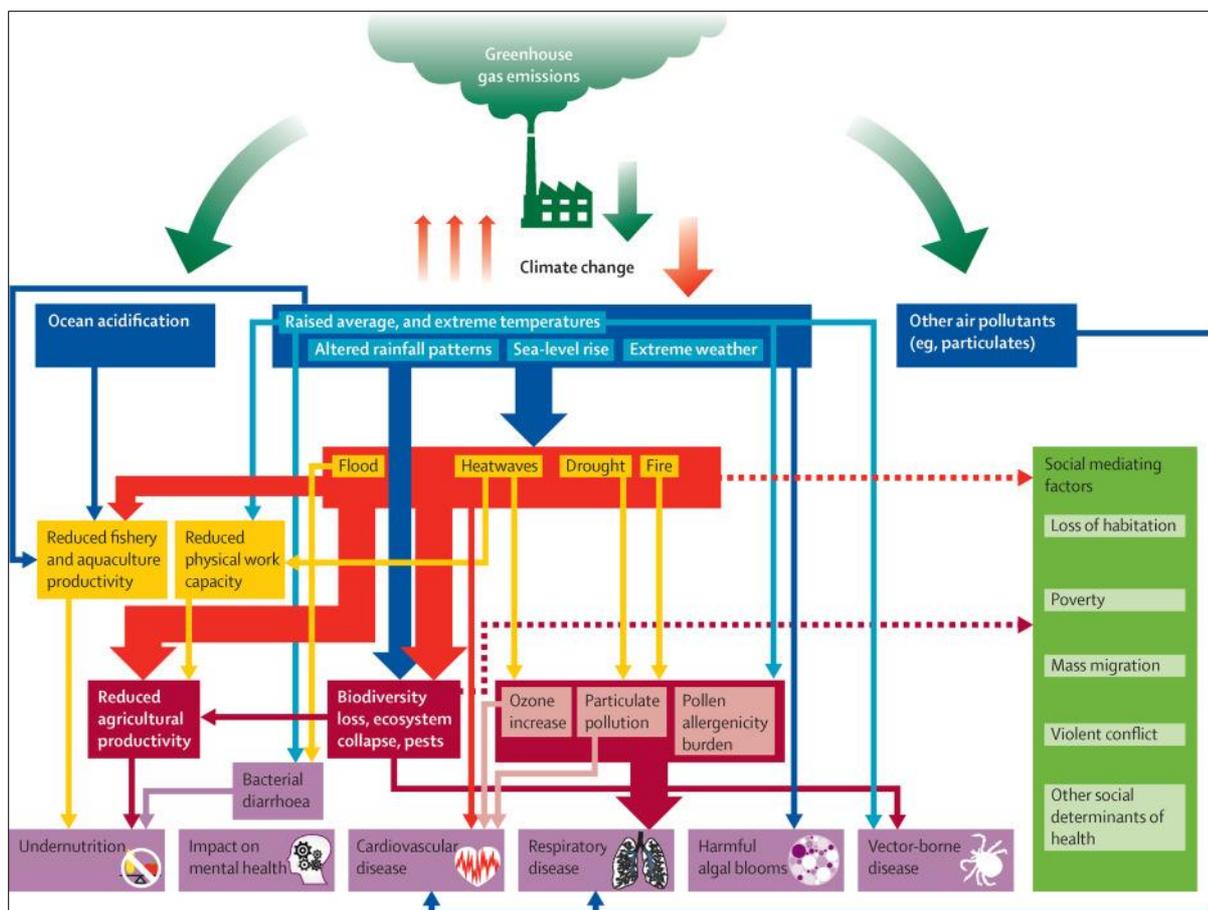


Figure 1- Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health (Watts et al. 2015).

Considerations about the Framework and its application

The Framework stresses the idea of a shared global effort, which is the only way to achieve the result of a mitigation and, in the longer run, hopefully stop the harmful outcomes of climate change. It also highlights the need of the Australian national leadership to take real action towards climate change and it provides policy advice and structure that can demonstrate Australia's progression towards the Lancet Countdown Indicators (2).¹

The Framework can be viewed as a consequence of the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, in which Australia acknowledges the right to health for its citizens in regard to national response to climate change. CAHA's Framework has to be seen as a way to help towards the Commonwealth government being able to fulfil its obligations as signatory of the Paris Agreement.

'Australia has signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on 9 November 2016. This reaffirms our strong commitment to effective and coordinated international action on climate change' (Wyatt 2017). These words are two years old now, and the Framework has not been utilised yet. However, the Framework has become part of the ALP electoral program which pledged to develop an environmental strategy based on it (Armstrong 2017). Also, the Greens expressed interest in the Framework. Climate change and health related issues are a serious problem for Australia and for every country in the world. National political parties and members of the government should embrace and begin to put into practice the policy advice of the Framework, instead of merely using propaganda in relation to climate change. Signing an agreement is a good start but climate change needs immediate and widespread action.

The Framework presents issues and suggests possible approaches and solutions to these problems. Most of the issues appear to be straight forward - also for the non-experts - making all of us wonder why policy-makers did not think about developing such a framework themselves. It also might make one think that environment and climate change are not really an agenda priority of the actual government. Interestingly, the Framework can be linked with the UN's 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly, to be achieved by 2030. Both represent a scheme on how to practically achieve a better environment and a better quality of life.

The biggest obstacle towards a strong action against climate change is the short sightedness of governments coupled with a still present group of non-believers in climate change (e.g. US President Donald Trump). An

effective action against climate change can only be achieved if all or at least the majority of the country works toward the same goals. 'Global carbon dioxide emissions are expected to hit a record high in 2018, despite urgent calls from climate scientists and international groups such as the United Nations to cut back' (Hamers 2018). The US, India and China, which are among the countries with higher CO2 emissions, need to take action immediately and if Australia embraces the Framework, it could help to lead the way for developed countries to reach the ambitious plan of solving the issues related to climate change.

References:

Armstrong, F 2017, *ALP announces intention to develop national climate, health, and well-being strategy*, CAHA, viewed 20 March 2019, <http://www.caha.org.au/alp_announcement>.

CAHA 2016, *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia*, CAHA, viewed 20 March 2019, <http://www.caha.org.au/national_strategy_framework_launch>.

CAHA 2018, *About: Climate And Health Alliance*, CAHA, viewed 20 March 2019, <<http://www.caha.org.au/about>>.

Hamers, L 2018, *Global carbon dioxide emissions will hit a record high in 2018*, Science News, viewed 24 March 2019, <<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/global-carbon-dioxide-emissions-will-hit-record-high-2018>>.

Watts, N et al. 2015, 'Health and climate change: policy responses to protect public health', *The Lancet*, vol. 386, no. 10006, pp. 1861-1914, viewed 24 March 2019,

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60854-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(15)60854-6/fulltext).

Wyatt, K (Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Minister for Indigenous Health) 2017, *Launch of publication of Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Wellbeing*, 22 June, Department of Health, Canberra, viewed 24 March 2019,

<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2017-wyatt170622.htm>>.

For further reading:

World Health Organisation - Climate change and health: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/climate-change-and-health>.

National Geographic – Climate change and health risks: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/climate-change/how-to-live-with-it/health.html>.

Australian Government – Department of Environment and Energy - Climate change impact in Australia: <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/climate-science-data/climate-science/impacts>.

ENDNOTES

- (1) For a full list of the individuals and organisations that took part to the creation of the framework see the page before the section "contents" of the Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia http://www.caha.org.au/national_strategy_framework_launch.
- (2) The Lancet Countdown Indicators have been elaborated in 2018 and represent a solid analysis through 41 indicators within 5 domains of climate change and health, to know more: <http://www.lancetcountdown.org/the-report/> -

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 and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

International News



ICAN -International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - <http://www.icanw.org/>

(Written by Maggie Ng, HOPE volunteer Vic)

Established in Melbourne, Australia, ICAN – the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons – was formally launched in Austria in 2007.

It is a coalition of non-governmental organisations from 100 nations who are responsible for implementing the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty and promoting its adherence.

Its landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017, inspired by the success of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which was launched a decade prior and played an instrumental role in the negotiation of the Ottawa treaty, an anti-personnel mine ban convention.

Since its inception, ICAN have worked tirelessly to build public support for the abolition of nuclear weapons on a global scale.

In 2017, ICAN were awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their tremendous, ground-breaking efforts toward drawing attention to the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and their goal of achieving a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.



At a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2010, all nations present expressed deep concern at the “catastrophic humanitarian consequences” of any use of nuclear weapons, focusing on the profound and devastating impacts of nuclear detonations.

At each of these conferences, ICAN served as the civil society coordinator. These conferences brought together most of the world’s governments as well as organisations and academic institutions from around the world.

ICAN then successfully lobbied for the UN General Assembly to adopt a landmark resolution in December 2016 to launch negotiations on a “legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons”, bringing an end to two years of inaction in multilateral efforts toward nuclear disarmament.

Throughout the negotiation process, ICAN worked alongside governments to achieve the strongest, most effective treaty possible, resulting in around two-thirds of the world’s nations voting in favour of adopting the treaty. ICAN now aims to persuade nations around the world to sign and ratify this agreement and work toward its full implementation.

A coalition of several hundred non-government organisations, from local peace groups to global federations, ICAN are responsible for organising global days of action, events that raise public awareness, and engaging in advocacy at the United Nations, as well as national parliaments. They work with survivors of catastrophic events

such as the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and nuclear tests, and share these stories with both key stakeholders and the public.

Many notable organisations make up the coalition of ICAN, including the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, who won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, and adopted ICAN as a top priority at its world congress in 2006. Mayors for Peace, a global network of city leaders, also joined the coalition in 2007 with mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba, as ICAN ambassador.

As well as these large organisations, many local grassroots peace groups have also joined ICAN in working towards nuclear disarmament.

ICAN also has the support of many prominent individuals, from the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, to entertainers such as Herbie Hancock, Martin Sheen, Michael Douglas and Yoko Ono.

In 2017, The Treaty of Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been opened for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and will remain open indefinitely. Once 50 nations have ratified or acceded to it, it will be legally enforced.

The treaty prohibits nations from the development, production, testing, manufacture, possession, use, or threats to use nuclear weapons. It also prohibits nations from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone in partaking in any of these activities.

Global Resilience Summit

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

At the end of 2018, Florida Earth Foundation hosted the *Global Resilience Summit*. Attendees of the conference were mainly stakeholders, especially those in the private and academic sectors. The aim of the summit was to share methods, form partnerships and collaborate on resilience themes. No one organisation, company or government body has been able to address the environment issues directly or with any form of noticeable success. This has hence become a global issue that can only be overcome through a holistic approach, including many bodies across multiple industries and sectors. Events such as this provide an excellent platform to enable high level CEO's, executives and stakeholders to communicate issues, solutions and alternatives to the issue at hand. The amount of global environment challenges is compounding at an exponential rate, which is triggering issues in a wide range of industries and sectors on a multi-national level. Therefore, it is in many executives, organisations and government's interests in finding an efficient, cost effective and appropriate solution to alleviate the straining environmental pressure on society, the economy and businesses around the world.



National News



Low Carbon Living CRC (Cooperative Research Centre) National Forum

- <http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/>

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

We are amidst a revolution. We have exhausted the mode of energy we have relied on for the last 140 years. As a result, we must turn to the only practical and cost-effective energy alternative that we know of at this moment in time. The efficient alternative energy sources provided to us in the form of wind, sun, water and heat. However, like all innovative technologies - time, investment and adjustments are needed for proper integration into a competitive market. These vital requirements do not instantaneously appear. They are long and expensive processes that work through the method of trial and error. *The Low Carbon Living CRC* is an organisation that assists in this transition, by focusing on research and integrating of building systems, low carbon infrastructure and hope to empower decisions makers through engagement of communities. They are partnered with a vast range of companies such as CSIRO, multiple leading universities in Australia and AECOM, as well as the Australian federal and state government.

The Low Carbon Living national forum focuses on societies challenges of affordability of energy efficient homes. The main topics addressed by the Low Carbon Living National Forum Report are:

- Energy related challenges, experiences and perceptions of low-income households
- Implementing low carbon homes for low income households
- Impacts and Opportunities of New Policy Approaches and Levers
- Energy and Services Supply Alternatives
- Addressing health and other impacts on low income households through low carbon homes

Through a holistic approach the Low Carbon Living aim at understanding household experiences with energy poverty of low-income household perceptions towards energy and their impact on their day to day lives. Through this data they hope to develop a method of developing cost-effective housing construction and retrofit solutions to improve energy efficiency of low-income home owners and renters. In particular, policy making and decision makers are vital, hence why through the introduction of innovative ideas and policy approaches they hope to assist demographics in today's society which do not have sufficient access to efficient energy. As a mitigation strategy, studies are currently being undertaken to understand energy issues, and possible solutions to these future problems, which is leading to new ideas about tariff structures and safety nets. Over time, efforts contributed by organisations such as Low Carbon Living will see the complete transition of renewable energy into our society, and the rest of the world.

Support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) has initiated a national e: petition calling on the Australian Federal Government to sign the United Nations (UN) Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

HOPE, a member group of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICANw)

<http://www.icanw.org/> fully supports the need to protect Australia, our residents and our environment from the threat of nuclear attacks

"The almost 15,000 nuclear weapons represent an overwhelming threat to human and environmental health. They have the capacity to cause death and suffering on an unprecedented scale, with widespread destruction of healthcare and other infrastructure and the natural environment. In the event of their use again, very little humanitarian response would be available to assist any survivors.

Therefore, nuclear weapons must never be used again. The only way to ensure this is to abolish them."

Please sign our petition at <https://www.change.org/p/australian-government-support-the-un-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons>