



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #06 --- June 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,

Welcome to the first day of winter!

This edition contains a mixture of articles received over the past 2 months.

Enjoy the read!

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](#)

June

5	World Environment Day
8	World Oceans Day
8	HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting, Toowoomba Qld
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

August

9	International Day for World Indigenous Peoples
10-18	National Science Week
12	International Youth Day
19	World Humanitarian Day
19-25	Keep Australia Beautiful Week



HOPE Office News --- June 2019

Good afternoon folks,

The month of May was interesting in a number of ways.

Firstly, the recruitment of new admin and research volunteers was off-set by the departure of several active volunteers.

So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please contact the office on phone 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustrlia.org.au to register your voluntary interest(s).

Secondly, our National Volunteer Week "thank you" morning tea for volunteers for poorly attended. In fact, attendance at HOPE meetings so far this year have been very low.

I urge members and supporters in the Toowoomba region to make an effort to attend our Ordinary Meeting on Saturday 8 June at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, commencing at 10am.

Please RSVP by Thursday, 6 June to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

A grant of \$4,947.50 from Toowoomba Regional Council will be used to undertake drone (i.e. UAV - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) survey of 2 small sections of creeks in the Crows Nest and Gowrie Junction areas.

Lastly, our information display at Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2019 on Sunday 26 May was well received by the public. A total of \$262.60 in donations was raised. A big thanks to Miriam for providing transport and company on the day.

Regards,

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

Advertising Rates

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

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

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

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

Helpful Hints – Green Cleaners

Recipes:

***Soap Jelly:** Grate one bar of soap. Put one half in one 10 litre bucket. Put the other half of grated soap in another 10 litre of water. Add ½ cup washing soda and 2 litres of boiling water to each bucket. Stir both buckets until mixture has dissolved. Top each bucket up to full with water. (From Booklet No. 50 – Recycling Soap).

***Surface Spray (All-purpose Spray/Stain Remover):** Mix together 1/3 cup each of water, cloudy ammonia and liquid soap-jelly (see above recipe) OR bio-degradable dishwashing detergent. Mix and store in recycled spray container. (More information: Booklet No. 50 – Recycling Soap)

MORE INFORMATION in the following booklets: Green Cleaning (No. 23): Back-to-Basics Cleaning (No. 24), Amazing Bicarb - (No. 9), Versatile Vinegar (No.33), The Humble Lemon (No. 10), Uses for Eucalyptus Oil (No. 51), Recycling Soap (No. 50), Homemade Polishers & Cleaners (No. 5:)

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Feature Article



The Convention on Biological Diversity - <https://www.cbd.int/>

By Remah Naji, HOPE member Qld

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally binding multilateral treaty adopted during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The three primary objectives of the CBD are to conserve biodiversity, to use the components of biodiversity sustainably and to share the benefits of genetic resources' utilisation in a fair and equitable way.

By the time it entered into force in 1993, the convention had 198 signatory countries, including Australia. Two agreements were adopted in 2000 and 2003 as supplementary to the CBD: Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol. The Cartagena Protocol on Biological Diversity regulates the movement of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology across countries. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) offers a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD.

UN Decade on Biological Diversity 2011-2020

Under the slogan "living in harmony with nature," the UN Decade on Biological Diversity was adopted to promote the conservation and sustainable use of nature. In order to achieve this, governments and other national and intergovernmental stakeholders are encouraged to mainstream biodiversity into broader development planning and economic activities.



The strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 is comprised of five strategic goals that manage twenty biodiversity targets, called Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Together, the goals and the targets provide a flexible framework for the implementation of national and/or regional targets.

Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Source: CBD website

2018 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

The latest UN Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Sharm El Sheikh on 13-29 November 2018. 196 governments met to make decisions on new international policies that target the conservation of nature and the diversification of life on earth.

During the conference, scientific evidence was presented to lay out the path of the global ecosystem, confirming that it "involves a continuing steep loss of biodiversity with cascading consequences for nature and for human society, including in the global economy, the availability of food and water, and human security, health and wellbeing."

Therefore, further measures to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were agreed upon by the participating governments during the conference. Key highlights from the conference include:

- An African Ministerial Declaration on Biodiversity, which endorses a Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for increased resilience in the continent by 2030.
- The UN General Assembly was called on to designate 2021-2030 as the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.
- A long-term strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity into the work of a number of productive sectors. These sectors include energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing and health.
- Voluntary guidelines were agreed upon on various issues, such as utilising nature-based approaches to adapt to climate change and to reduce risks of natural disasters, and incorporating effective measures of area-based conservation into wider landscapes and seascapes.

CBD AND AUSTRALIA’S SITUATION



The Protected Planet Report 2018, which tracks progress towards global targets for protected areas, was released the CBD conference in Sharm El Sheikh. According to the report, the network of protected areas in Australia had been expanded since 2016. However, Australia, along with other countries such as the US and China, would need “to designate new protected areas to improve connectivity.”

Land clearing in key habitat areas in Queensland and New South Wales, where these areas lack protection, is evident about Australia’s non-compliance with its international obligation to protect 17% of bio-regions in the National Reserve System. According to Queensland’s Department of

Science, an alarming estimate of 395,000 hectares of land was cleared in 2015-2016, making the Sunshine State one of the worst places in land clearing.

While the UN report found that Australia has failed to meet its targets, conservation groups have called for strengthening the measures of habitat protection and urged the federal government to increase investment programs for national parks. This means that the major parties have real opportunities to consider new policies ahead of the 2019 Federal elections. According to James Trezise, a policy analyst from the Australian Conservation Foundation, it’s an opportunity for the major parties to consider “how their policies can contribute to a new deal for people and nature.”

For more information about the CBD, click here to view latest CBD publications.

Helpful Hints – Green Cleaners

Laundry/Bathroom

Laundry detergent	1 cup soap jelly* OR 1/2 cup grated soap (dissolved in hot water)
Stain Removal	Lemon juice or Stain Remover*
Water Softener	Washing Soda OR Bicarb soda (1/4 cup per full washing tub)
Fabric Whitener	Lemon juice OR vinegar
Disinfectant	Vinegar or mixture of half vinegar/water and few drops eucalyptus oil
Bath/Tiles	Bicarb soda and wet sponge OR vinegar OR Surface Spray*
Mildew/Mould	Vinegar OR Surface Spray* OR 1/2 lemon dipped in bicarb soda
Toilet Cleaner	Basin: Vinegar & bicarb soda Lid: Vinegar OR Surface Spray*
Toilet Deodoriser	Pour in: Vinegar (1/2 cup) OR 6 drops Eucalyptus oil (into basin)

Other:

Carpet Deodorant	Bicarb soda (plain or add few drops lavender or eucalyptus oil)
Carpet Cleaner	Soapy water OR Bicarb soda
Wooden Furniture	Wipe with lemon juice & olive oil (half/half) OR use Surface spray*
Window Cleaner	Spray: half vinegar/water OR crumpled newspaper
Labels (jars)	Eucalyptus oil
Chewing gum	Eucalyptus oil
Walls	Bicarb soda & water OR (for difficult stains) Surface Spray*
Air-freshener	Spray room with: half vinegar/water with added scent (i.e. lavender or eucalyptus oil) OR simmer fresh flowers on stove
Plastics	Bicarb soda paste OR vinegar

International News

#breakfreefromplastic

Break Free From Plastic - <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/>

By Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld

Main Aims

Since September 2016, 1300 organizations have joined this movement. Its overarching goals? A massive reduction in single-use plastic and long-term solutions to plastic pollution. The vision is to achieve an earth which has “abundance of life”, not plastic. Decision making must be made considering environmental and social justice, public health and human rights, rather than corporate interests. Breakfreefromplastic has the following principles:

1. Sustainable lifestyles: Involve considering the limits of the environment
2. Reduce waste: Especially from more developed nations to less developed nations
3. Responsible material lifecycles: Encompasses extraction, production and disposal
4. Community action and partnerships: Includes citizens, government and business
5. Waste workers and systems: Recyclers are supported to improve disposal systems
6. Responsible production: Producers take full cost of entire life cycle of goods
7. Reduce, reuse and reuse again: Continue to use a product, repairing if required or recycle
8. “Waste-to-Energy” isn’t the solution: No more incineration
9. Organic Waste: Return to the soil rather than landfill
10. Slow Climate Change: Encompasses systems and materials used.

When visited, the Breakfreefromplastic website described several current campaigns: Asia Pacific, including Korea which has a Zero Waste network and India; United States and Latin America; Europe and Africa. Notably, Australia was absent from the list. If any individual or organisation wants to join this global movement, <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/#join-us> connects to a registration form.



<https://network.futureearth.org/home>

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

Main Aims

Future Earth Open Network is a global online community for researchers and anyone with a passion for the environment to get involved. The overarching aim of Future Earth is to create an active culture which results in real change. It is not merely a social media site. Here, researchers and experts from a range of fields will be given the resources and input from like-minded people to create transformation to sustainability.

Future Earth provides a platform for a series of forums. The community forum is the largest and provides a place to discuss sustainability in general terms. There are also forums targeting a specific interest area, such as health or sustainable finance and economics. Other forums are global, such as the Earth Systems Governance Project. Members can post in response to one another and the website also allows free publication of articles. Membership is free and merely requires an email address and password.

Future Earth is a valuable resource in terms of the people and ideas it connects, and is an important tool in our global effort to be locally sustainable.

National News



Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia - <https://segra.com.au/>

By Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld

Main Aims

Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) recognises the importance of empowering local leadership to bring about effective change where it needs to happen. For 23 years, SEGRA has been committed to regional, rural and remote Australia in sourcing knowledge, practice and skills to attain economic growth and development. This has been facilitated at annual conferences which give rural and urban communities the opportunity to discuss important issues facing the rural sector. The focus is to provide “positive sustainable outcomes to ensure future prosperity”.

SEGRA attains this through the following objectives for rural Australia:

1. Take initiative and control of their own economic development
2. Identify economic, social and cultural positions and optimize worth in the global economy
3. Identify and use emerging issues to maximize benefit
4. Creatively strategize and implement to build community and meet rural needs
5. Identify policy planners and access points in government and corporations
6. Pinpoint issues for regional sustainability
7. Highlight the rural profile
8. Set a policy agenda and alter current options

As can be seen, Sustainable Economic Growth for Regional Australia (SEGRA) is integral to providing a voice for regional Australia!



Planet Ark - <https://planetark.org/>

By Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld

Main Aims

Planet Ark, as its name suggests, runs a number of campaigns to educate and inspire the public. Their emphasis is on individual change which will ultimately create substantial outcomes for the environment. They state: “We don’t have to engage in grand heroic actions to participate in change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world”. Planet Ark partners with Bing Industries, Australian Paper and Planet Protector Packaging. Its sponsors and supporters include Toyota, Bunnings, Brother, Canon and Officeworks.

Campaigns include: Clean Up Australia Day, recycling printer cartridges and electronic waste, planting trees, reusing spent coffee grounds and cups, and using energy efficient light bulbs. As China’s waste import ban has affected Australia and our waste levels continue to increase, Planet Ark has emphasised the importance of National Recycling Week which is held in November. Planet Ark have also created an Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) which provides easily understood recycling information when purchasing.



Queensland News

Is success on the horizon for the Queensland Fire Ant Program?

By Jaylan Schabrod, Natural Areas Technician

Several hundred fire ant nests can be found within an area that covers three football fields. Fire ants are a dark, blackish maroon colour and they vary in size from around 2 to 6 millimetres. Their stings contain a toxic alkaloid and can be fatal to small animals and to sensitive people, especially as the fire ants have a tendency to swarm when their nests are disturbed. They are one of the most invasive species on earth, with colonies that produce large mounds capable of housing tens of thousands of worker ants. Queen ants can live up to seven years and are able to produce hundreds of thousands of eggs throughout a lifetime. These ants are native to South America and were first found in Australia in 2001.

The spread of this invasive species is one that poses major social, environmental, and economic impacts. In Queensland, attempts have been made to manage their spread through the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. Pellet baits were used with little effect due to them becoming ineffective in the rain.

Successful eradication of fire ant nests requires licenced professionals with the right knowledge and knowhow to safely apply a heavily diluted mix of water and broad-spectrum insecticide thoroughly over each nest.



The process begins with a group of workers who each hold markers while forming a search line for nests. When a nest is found a marker is placed near the nest to make it easier to find for the next step.

Once all the nests have been located within a given area, a quick spray unit is used to thoroughly rinse the nests with the diluted insecticide solution while the nest is being shovelled to ensure proper saturation.



Using this method several hundred fire ant nests can be removed with a week of searching and saturating. Newer methods include the use of drones and helicopters equipped with infrared technology to scan certain areas for heat signatures which could indicate

a nest. The trouble with this sort of technology is that cow manure tends to look similar to an ant nest!! Current aerial sensing technologies are still in need of development before they can become useful for the large-scale removal of these ant nests.

The eradication of fire ants in Queensland is an enormous undertaking that requires proper training, equipment and methodology. Though, through my own experience, I've seen that it works and I'm hopeful for the future when the process is improved and the task is done more effectively.

Helpful Hints – Green Cleaners

Kitchen:

Oven Cleaner	Scrub with bicarb soda & water OR vinegar paste
Dish Detergent	Soap jelly* (1/4 cup) OR grated soap (2 tablespoons)
Surface Cleaner	Vinegar (in spray bottle) OR All-Purpose Spray*
Floor Cleaner	Boiling Water with vinegar & bicarb soda OR soap jelly* (1/2 cup)
Abrasive Cleaner	Bicarb soda OR salt
Drain Cleaner	1/4 cup bicarb soda with 1/2 cup vinegar - followed by boiling water. Plunge if necessary. OR combination salt & vinegar
Drain Deodoriser	5-6 drops eucalyptus oil OR 1/2 cup vinegar or 1/4 cup bicarb soda