



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #07 --- July 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,

Once again, we have a good cross-section of articles for your reading pleasure.

Please take special note of our Website Administrator's report 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](#)

July

7-14	NAIDOC Week
11	World Population Day
22	Community Conversation gathering on Climate, HOPE Office, Toowoomba
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

September

	National Biodiversity Month
1	National Wattle Day
	Sea Week- TBC
7	National Threatened Species Day
9	National Bilby Day
15	Sustainable House Day
16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
15	Bushcare's Major Day Out – BMDO
22	World Car-Free Day
26	World Maritime Day

Note: A variety of external upcoming events endorsed by HOPE may be seen on our website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/home/upcoming-events/> .

HOPE Website Report



HOPE Website Maintenance Update

By Marie Yandog, HOPE Website Administrator

HOPE aims to always keep you updated with the latest environmental news and events at the local, state, national and international level – and the HOPE website is one way of achieving this. Over the past few months, we have updated some of our frequently visited pages like the

What's New page, Upcoming Events page, Resources page and our Interesting Websites page.

HOPE's What's New page features latest news posts and media releases from reputable environmental organisations in Australia and around the world. The main goal of this page is to raise awareness in the most recent and relevant environmental issues and inform our readers how they can support the organisations working tirelessly to combat these issues.

The Upcoming Events page consists of environment-related events happening particularly in Australia that may be of interest to you. In this page, we also include dates for meetings and events hosted by HOPE, so keep an eye out if you are interested in coming along and sharing your ideas with us!

Our Resources page contains several subpages, namely – eNews Bulletins, Sundry – HOPE, Sundry – External, Media Activities and Reference Library. In our eNews Bulletins page, all of our monthly publications since 2007 are available for download, which are made up of feature and news articles written by HOPE volunteers. Our Sundry – HOPE page consists of information contributed by HOPE volunteers in different forms – booklets, information sheets, brochures, etc. – and has recently been updated with new feature articles. The Sundry – External page likewise consists of publications from external sources, which has also been updated with new and useful resources. All of our media releases since 2015 are also available for download in the Media Activities page, and the Reference Library page lists all resources available for the public at the HOPE Office.

New links to environment-related websites are continually being added to our Interesting Websites page, which is further divided into subpages: the NGOs, Government and Businesses. While these subpages are still 'under construction', the main Interesting Websites page can freely be accessed. If you know of any websites that should be included in our collection of Interesting Websites, please don't hesitate to contact us at 07 4639 2135 or office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Bio of Marie Yandog

Hello everyone! My name is Marie and I will be looking after the maintenance of HOPE's website content this year. I gained interest in volunteering for environmental groups in high school, where I was a member of the Eco Action Committee. As this is my first volunteering position outside of high school, it is a very exciting opportunity for me.

I am currently studying Computing at University, and I hope to utilise my knowledge in websites to fulfil my duties in this volunteer position and to overall, help in the much-needed dissemination of relevant environmental issues.

I hope you find all the information on HOPE's website as useful and eye-opening as I do whenever I update our content. If you have any suggestions to improve our website pages in any way or if you have any relevant content that you wish to be added to one of our pages, please do not hesitate to let us know through our office phone 4639 2135, or by emailing us at office@hopeaustralia.org.au. We would love to hear from you!



HOPE Office News --- July 2019

Good afternoon folks,

Highlights from June included the holding of our quarterly Ordinary Meeting (08/06); and the completion of our "Drone Surveys of 2 Creeks in Toowoomba Regional Council's catchment" project (20/06).

As the financial year come to a close, Miriam and I will prepare the accounts for auditing.

The 'Business Activity Statement (BAS)' form has not arrived yet from the Australian Tax office (ATO), so we'll be handing the accounts and BAS form over to our accountant later this month.

On Monday 22 July, we will be having a "community conversation on climate change" presented by Ms. Janet Bishop, a supporter of the Climate for Change group (www.climateforchange.org.au) at the HOPE office from 10am to 12noon.

A formal invitation will be issued by email to Toowoomba locals later this week.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135
www.hopeaustralia.org.au

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:

- Social Media volunteers to develop and maintain the online presence of HOPE Australia (currently Facebook and Twitter)
 - 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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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.)

Feature Articles

Synthetic Chemicals, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), the Environment and Us Series (article 1)

By Nina Stick, Environmental Scientist, and up and coming botanist/ecologist

“What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves” – a quote from David Suzuki

Synthetic chemicals are everywhere !

- Many thousands have been produced and released.
- Some persist for long time periods or travel great distances.
- Of the 100,000 synthetic chemicals on the market today, very few have been thoroughly tested for harmful effects.



Synthetic chemicals have infiltrated every part of our lives in westernised cultures. They have ended up in our environment, in waterways, in the air we breathe, in our food, personal care, household and gardening products. There is mounting evidence of the detrimental impact this is having on ecological systems, wildlife and human health. Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* was ground-breaking in terms of bringing awareness to, and highlighting the problems of, prolific use of some synthetic chemicals; with catastrophic consequences - particularly, pesticides. Where are we going to draw the line?

In this series, I will discuss synthetic chemicals in urban areas and bushland, in our food, in cosmetics and personal care, in the home and in gardening products. I will also

discuss the introduction and impact of GMOs into our food supply and environment.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” - a quote from Margaret Mead.

In heed of Margaret Mead's well-known saying, it is up to each and every one of us to create the change that we want to see. **Be** the change you want to see in the world. I believe we can point at politicians and others for not listening and contributing only when we have done the work first, ourselves. Politicians represent people; and I think that it is important to remember that they are not mind readers. We need to ask for what we want, and sometimes, with much intent! It's about taking personal responsibility for our ecological impact on this Earth. If we make choices, consume wisely, then we can contribute to a sustainable world.



Community Exchange System Australia
- <https://www.communityexchange.net.au/>

“Business as usual, or working towards a new economy?”
By Janet Bishop, HOPE supporter (Qld)

Have you thought that business as usual is not succeeding?
That in order to create a better world we need a new economy
that supports us to meet critical environmental and social goals?

The new economy movement is alive and growing, and around the world there is lots of experimentation with complementary and alternative systems of exchange that are based on rethinking the nature of ownership and the growth paradigm.

Some examples include worker owned cooperatives, social enterprises, the gift economy, B corporations, parts of the sharing economy, complementary local currencies, mutual credit trading systems, some applications of the blockchain, emissions reductions currencies, microcredit, time banks and the circular economy.

I still like the Local Employment Transfer System or LETS: a community issued not-for-profit mutual credit trading system that has been operating in Australia since the paper-based startups of the 1980s. A mutual credit system is essentially a system of record keeping for multiple "IOU" notes instead of a currency. The way it works allows it to function as a micro-credit facility, and positive and negative balances are always interest free. It can be operated as a time bank, where the units of exchange are hours of service, or operated with units of exchange equivalent to dollars, which allows the trade of goods as well as services.

The original concept of LETS was for local groups, and this is still important as the creator Michael Linton says, "due to the need for confidence in other traders, and the importance of real things to trade, both of which will be stronger in a locality or region, where identities can be verified and credibility confirmed."

These days, most local LETS groups use the online record keeping offered by CES (Community Exchange System), which also links the local groups into a worldwide network that can now trade with each other.

Some of the amazing things I have seen happen over the years, facilitated by LETS:

- many individual entrepreneurs test the market for their goods without having to outlay for advertising
- cafes and growers offering meals and food, and they exchange their LETS income on business services
- a house built entirely by workers trading in LETS
- rent paid by LETS
- low income families with kids supplementing their lifestyle with goods and services traded through LETS
- new arrivals in a community welcomed into the community and offering home maintenance services to seniors
- a network of holiday accommodation
- shared maintenance and use of a rotary hoe

In LETS in Australia, consumer protection is covered by all the usual consumer and fair-trading laws, and income of LETS units is taxable.

The model I love, and the potential I and many see, is for many more local businesses and organisations to offer maybe 10% of their services, or one shelf of goods, for trade through the LETS system. Businesses and organisations might use their LETS income to purchase business services, and might offer LETS units as a bonus to paid staff or as a stipend to recognise hard working volunteers. The benefit will flow through to the community by reducing the spend of \$ to large far-away corporations.

So, it's time to get organising. One of the strongest LETS groups is CENTS in Tasmania, which was supported in its startup phase by the Northwest Environment Centre of Tasmania. My hope is for environment groups everywhere to explore the local options, discuss what will work for them, and then test and trial some options, working along with social justice groups, community based financial counsellors, service organisations, and local council economic development officers.

In your organisation appoint someone to explore what options already exist in your community, and what sorts of trades your organisation could benefit from. A good next step is to hold a regular new-economy game session, where participants can experience how things might work. Then modify the rules, play again, and learn - a very hands on and enlightening approach.



Australian Student Environment Network (ASEN) - <https://asen.org.au/>

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

Main Aims

Australian Student Environment Network was formed at the 1997 at the Students and Sustainability convergence in Townsville. It is the longest running and one of the largest youth environment networks in Australia. ASEN functions as its name suggests: a connection of student environment groups across Australia. It describes itself as a “grassroots movement for change” and works on the twin pillars of environmental and social justice. Part of this is the recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty which involves working with indigenous people in their struggle.

ASEN enables communication between environment collectives and co-ordinates national projects and campaigns. It educates people regardless of age to become “lifelong change agents”, for example, a five-day training camp in activist skill-sharing. Its events and publications encourage people to be inclusive and break down any sexist, homophobic, racist and class barriers. Members are encouraged to sign-up to particular campaign projects within their State. Although an environmental collective will choose a campaign, the individual decides how to direct their own energy and strengths. ASEN is based on a consensus model: “all members have the same power to input and make decisions”.

International News

Review of the 2018 Lancet Countdown report on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come

By Lea Dorrian Proudman, HOPE researcher NSW

“460,000 Deaths per year from Climate Change Air Pollution “

Almost half a million people die prematurely from fine-particulate air pollution each year. Coal has been identified as a major source of the emissions responsible and is the main cause of premature death from climate change according to the 2018 Lancet Countdown Report. Continuing trends in health risks from heat, heatwaves, infectious diseases, and declining food security all add to the ongoing dangers for global health risks.

WHAT IS THE LANCET COUNTDOWN REPORT?

the Lancet Report 2018 is a global health research report conducted by 100 experts in science and academia, representing 27 academic institutions and UN agencies, across every continent.

The report is a leading global assessment tracking tool. *The Lancet Countdown Report* examines progress on climate change and human health in the context of the Paris Agreement.

WHAT IS THE REPORT MEASURING?

The research has identified 5 key health and climate domains, with a total of 41 indicators for the negative health effects of climate change.

Specifically, the five broad sections are: climate change impacts, exposures and vulnerability; adaptation, planning and resilience for health; mitigation actions and health co-benefits; economics and finance; and public and political engagement.

WHY IS THE REPORT IMPORTANT?

Seeing climate change as a central public health concern, not just an environmental issue, can accelerate response to climate change prevention.

The LANCET COUNTDOWN REPORT is designed both as a research document and as a valuable tracking tool for future health issues related to climate change.

The action or failure to act on climate change is measured and documented for 2018 and will be conducted annually to 2030.

WHAT ARE THE KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS?

1. Unacceptable high level of risk for the current and future health of the global population from increased temperatures including risk from heatwaves, disease and food insecurity.
2. A lack of progress in reducing emissions and building adaptive capacity threatens health systems with the potential to disrupt core public health infrastructure and overwhelm health services.
3. Transition to a low-carbon energy is vital to stem the nature and scale of the negative health response to climate change.
4. Understanding of climate change as a central public health issue is crucial to accelerating response to climate change prevention.

How can the *Lancet Countdown Report* help change the world?

What you can measure, you can manage.

Conducting research and creating the report to analyze and measure the health impacts from climate change globally on an annual basis is an important tracking tool. Health professionals, global citizens, advocates and policy makers of the world are encouraged to include serious health concerns as a key reason to accelerate global efforts to combat climate change.

By providing key indicators, impacts can be measured. As a result, key global actions are made.

Key Recommendations from the Lancet Global Countdown Report:

1. Invest in climate change and public health research.
2. Increase financing for climate-resilient health systems including disaster response, climate mitigation and adaptation.
3. Phase out coal-fired power by 2030 or earlier.
4. Encourage city-level low-carbon transition to reduce urban pollution with increasing use of electric vehicles.
5. Establish the framework for a strong and predictable carbon pricing mechanism.
6. Rapidly expand access to renewable energy.
7. Agree and implement an international treaty that facilitates the transition to a low-carbon economy.
8. Develop a new, independent collaboration to provide expertise in implementing policies that mitigate climate change and promote public health, and monitor progress over the next 15 years.

Do you want to know more about the *Lancet Countdown Report*?

- Youtube summary of the report findings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moYzcYNX1iM>
 - Lancet Countdown Report 2018 Executive Summary: <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2818%2932594-7>
 - Climate and Health Alliance: http://www.caha.org.au/release_of_lancet_countdown_2018_report
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Queensland News

QUEENSLAND CITIZEN SCIENCE STRATEGY

By Dan Bielich, B.Sc. – Climate Science, M.S. Env, completing B. Ren-Eng

The Australian Government alongside Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) introduced a strategy to strengthen the relationship between the local community and the scientific community. In the aim of broadening perspectives, assisting in real life research and uniting people from various demographics.

The aim of ***The Queensland Citizen Science Strategy*** is to:

- To increase the number of students participating in school STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects.
- To increase engagement and participation of the Queensland community in science-based activities
- To increase the number of scientists directly engaging with the Queensland community
- To increase awareness and understanding of the great science taking place in Queensland.

This requires the group members above to be engaged in observations of plants and animals within their habitat. Much of the data collection in science is time consuming and tedious, hence why this program was introduced to include the community in being a part of the research. The advantages of this strategy are that it targets students in school who are interested in science, as well as any of those in the local communities that would like to engage in these scientific data gathering practices. It gives a real-life perspective of the daily life of a scientist.

By being physically involved in a project it helps to connect the community with the changes that are occurring based on these studies. A fundamental bridge between decisions being made in the present and the future, that determine the wellbeing of their environment. If a community feels involved in a study, it is more likely to adapt a change that is resulted from that study. These projects are mostly environmental based, and strive for the sustainability and protection of critical flora and fauna that surround a chosen area, usually within of which the community lies.

A very effective method of validity for this strategy's intention is a reviewing of the Strategy by the Office of Queensland Chief Scientist after a period of 24 months. This will allow any concerns or issues to be adjusted to allow a more effective communication and connection between the science and local community.

It is strategies such as these that will provide the backbone to action against climate change. Students are our future, and by shaping their minds to empathise with the environment and physically see the damage our actions as humans are causing will likely shape the decisions they will make in the future. These changes are gradual, however, these small changes, if applied throughout the world are what will make the most difference.

Resources



The Ecological Citizen – <https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/>

The Ecological Citizen (<https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/>) is a new, open-access online journal dedicated to providing a forum for ecocentric thinking on a rich variety of topics, along with ecologically-focused poetry and art. Topics covered in the journal include wildlife conservation and rewilding, ecology, ecological ethics, sustainable ways of living, environmental activism and celebrations of the beauty, mystery and integrity of Earth.

The journal aims to help to forge a community of ecological citizens, committed to addressing the central issue of our time: how to halt and reverse our current ecocidal course and create an ecological civilization. Despite its short history, contributors to the journal already include such luminaries as Marc Bekoff, Paul Ehrlich, John Michael Greer, Wes Jackson, Bill Laurance, Freya Mathews, George Monbiot, John Seed, Will Steffen, Colin Tudge, and Captain Paul Watson of Sea Shepherd.

Ecocentrism is a worldview that expands the moral community beyond our own species, and finds intrinsic moral value in *all* life-forms—and, indeed, in nature and the ecosphere as a whole. This worldview offers a robust ethical analysis of the negative impact that humans are having on the community of life on Earth and the physical systems on which it is dependent. In particular, ecocentrism rejects the widespread and profoundly damaging assumption that non-human nature is valuable only insofar as it is an exploitable ‘resource’ or supplier of ‘ecosystem services’ for human beings. Ecological citizens, guided by an ecocentric philosophy and a love for the Earth, will be in the forefront of the movement to end and reverse the deadly crisis all life currently faces.

The Ecological Citizen's first issue was published on 1 July 2017. New issues come out twice a year, with the occasional additional ‘supplement’ devoted to special topics. The journal carries long articles, reflections, opinion pieces, book reviews, art and poetry. All papers are peer-reviewed, but aimed at a non-specialist audience. The Editor-in-Chief is Patrick Curry (author of *Ecological Ethics*, now in its third edition with Polity Press). There is an extensive editorial board. The journal runs on a purely volunteer basis, taking advantage of the very low costs and global dissemination possible for an e-publication. It is open access, and carries no paid advertising. The small costs involved are paid for by private donations.

You can sign up for alerts from the journal here: <https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/#signup>. You will receive an email whenever a new issue or supplement is published.

In the words of John Davis, a long-time editor of the journal *Wild Earth* (published 1991–2004), “*The Ecological Citizen* can be a catalyst for radical, egalitarian, compassionate, unifying change. [...] May this much-needed new forum lead to a truly wild Earth, with secure homes for everyone in the biotic community.”

