



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #08 --- August 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,

We seem to be having early Spring weather, rather than mid-Winter weather ... possibly something to do with climate change!?

This month's newsletter contains another good mix of articles for your reading pleasure.

Please pay particular attention to the Office News 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](#)

#### August

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- 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

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- [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](#)

#### October

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- 4-10 [World Space Week](#)
  - 5 [National Walk to Work Day](#)
  - 7 [World Habitat Day](#)
  - 13 [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)
  - 16 [National Ride 2 Work Day](#)
  - 16 [World Food Day](#)
  - 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)  
[Bird Week- TBC](#)
  - 21-27 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#)  
[National Water Week- TBC](#)
  - 23-24 [All Energy 2019 conference](#)
  - 24 [United Nations Day](#)
  - 27 [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#)
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## HOPE Office News --- August 2019

Good morning folks,

July in review. What a busy period we have been experiencing at the office!

An "Art-Science-Nature" project proposal has been sent to Dr Rebecca Scollen, Head of School (creative Arts), University of Southern Queensland (USQ) for her consideration.

HOPE has invited Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to consider the merits of using "Deliberative Democracy" practices for future community consultation exercises.

We look forward to positive outcomes on both of the above matters.

Thank you to Andrew Nicholson for drafting both submissions.

A letter was also sent to Ms. Heckenberg, USQ, regarding a poster series by College for Indigenous Studies, Education and Research (CISER) ISE3000 Research Project 2019 and its relevance to work being undertaken by HOPE.

The planned "conversation on climate" presentation was cancelled due to insufficient registrations. Janet Bishop hopes to reschedule a similar event later in the year.

Steve Cupitt, Crossroads Rural & Environment with support from Sandy Robertson, Fauna Ecologist and Kym Campbell, Environmental Scientist have offered their combined services to help us with environmental/landcare projects.

Miriam and I submitted an online grant application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) for a new computer system. Fingers crossed we will be successful this time around!

Our accounts have been handed over to our accountant for auditing.

Lastly, a big thanks to new volunteers – Lea, Max and Gemma who are helping with article writing; Cristiano who is producing short promotional videos on various envNGOs; and Juliette and Thomas who are assisting with posting items to our Facebook page.

Regards,

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

[www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)

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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/>.

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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

## International News

### UN Sustainability Goals - <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

By Dan Bielich, HOPE researcher (WA), B.Sc. – Climate Science, M.S. Env, completing B. Ren-Eng

Stated below are the 17 UN sustainability goals that were formulated in 2015 by the General Assembly, with the theme of “not leaving anyone behind”. The goals are an attempt of a holistic approach to achieve long term sustainable development for all. However, to achieve these goals, we must commit to implement them on an individual and community level. We must all play our part for our community to adopt such goals. Change is the primary motivator behind these goals, for without it we will continue with the devastating impact humans have had, as a result of our consumerism behaviour.

#### UN Sustainability Goals

1. No Poverty	10. Reduced Inequalities
2. Zero Hunger	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
3. Good Health and Well-Being	12. Responsible Consumption and Production
4. Quality Education	13. Climate Action
5. Gender Equality	14. Life below Water
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	15. Life on Land
7. Affordable and Clean energy	16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	17. Partnerships for the Goals
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	

On an individual level, it comes down to changing our day to day behaviours and lifestyle. The effect of our human activities on the environment has been spoken about countless times, and that the root cause of these problems is our destructive behaviour. Our lifestyle has grown accustomed to consuming and discarding. For example, even with the numerous attempts by marketing companies, and food giants to discard single use plastic bags, the attempts are continuously disregarded and plastic bags infest their way back into the shops. The effects of plastic bags affect life in the water as much as it does life on land, with the possibility of contamination, suffocation and flooding. A parallel concept may be applied to eating. The quantity of food that is thrown away every day is outrageous, especially when taking into consideration the number of people who die from hunger every day. I could bombard you with facts – but that will just make you lose sight of the message of this article - which is that change does not occur quickly; however, small adjustments over time will make a lot of difference.

Many of the goals presented by the UN are not in the hands of the general public, such as “no poverty” and “no hunger”. Yes, we are able to donate to charities, but personally, with many millionaires and billionaires who have donated more than we could ever dream about making, there is very little actual change, and it does make me question where this money goes.

Goals such as “Quality Education” and “Clean Water and Sanitation” are more specific to second and third world countries, where these things that we take for granted are not so common. Many of these issues are complex, and require a thorough examination of the mechanics of how they occur before finding a viable solution. This then requires a look at distribution of resources, competency of governance and assessment of possible corruption.

On a community scale, we are able to rally communities and groups for a common cause, that assist in promotion of positive activities, behaviours and habits. These can be for recycling, reducing pollution, promoting vaccinations and supporting climate action. All of which contribute to achieving the UN’s sustainability goals. But ultimately it will come down to the competency of governments and their ability to put the nation’s needs first and not their own political careers. Now, is this possible? Yes, with New Zealand’s prime minister providing a perfect example.

However, there are goals that require changes and adaptation of current institutions. For even though we are a developed nation, and feed off the giant organism we call capitalism, we must put aside this profit-thirsty ideology and be impartial to some issues that require our attention. For example, ensuring affordable and clean energy. Rather than focussing on maximising profits, institutions should be focussed on distributing the most accepted form of clean energy. This in turn will likely turn out to be the most profitable form of introducing clean energy due to the large quantity of people that are willing to adopt clean energy technology. Furthermore, this will also fulfil the goal of creating a “sustainable city and community” as well as “responsible consumption and production”.

The social issues of today simmer in the overheating pot we call our political climate. “Gender Equality” and “Reducing Inequality” are quite ambitious goals, as the basis of our economy and way of life is dependent on the gap of inequalities between countries, (as the saying goes “everything is made in China”). The tug-of-war between these issues are a result of the psychological backbone that are the main disparity between that of a

conservative and a progressive outlook in our community. It is impossible to imagine if these ever will be achieved, if reflecting on the past and present.

“Peace and Justice in strong institutions” almost seems impossible. With many businesses’ behaviours described as cutthroat due to the competitive nature of today’s market and economy in such a capitalistic medium. Crimes, cover ups, chaos and corruption being the primary landlords of the companies that make the monopolies and oligopolies of our market.

As we can see the UN’s Sustainability Goals are far more complex and perplexing once examined under the initial surface. There is a matrix of factors, influences and biases that are intertwined in a large network that we call our “functioning” society, and hence makes these goals extremely difficult. What is needed is a council that utilises practical metrics to ensure that the methods of implementation are valid for the goal, and are being executed appropriately.

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## **Greta Thunberg**

By Braden Wilkinson



**SKOLSTREJK FOR KLIMATET (school strike for climate)**, this slogan has had an incredible ripple effect for not only students but also governments worldwide. The person responsible for all this? A 16-year-old girl named Greta Thunberg, born in Stockholm - Sweden. While learning about climate change at school at the age of 11, Greta became overwhelmed with what was happening to the planet. She fell into a severe depression which lifted after a while, however returned last year spring (autumn in the southern hemisphere). This time though she changed her mind set and instead of falling into depression again, conveyed that sadness into proactive energy.

Greta decided to show her concern for climate change by not going to school on Fridays and rather standing outside Sweden’s parliament buildings with her poster board saying **SKOLSTREJK FOR KLIMATET (school strike for climate)**. Greta’s hard work and persistence has paid off, on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019 a staggering 1.6 million people (mostly students) showed their support in a climate strike by protesting in the streets for a certain portion of the day or the entire day. Greta Thunberg has since then been invited to speak at the United Nations, World Economic Forum, given a TED Talk, met with Pope Francis, as well as addressing the EU and UK Parliaments, encouraging them to make a change.

When I first heard about Greta, I was a little sceptical. However now I believe that she is exactly the right person at the right age to be standing up for her future and generations which will follow her. Too often we are bombarded by scientists and celebrities spewing out facts and figures about climate change. There’s nothing wrong with this; however, it just seems so much more powerful and urgent when a 16-year-old with her whole life ahead of her, stands up and says *enough is enough*. She has ignited movements such as Extinction Rebels and Fridays for the Future. Greta speaks with conviction and passion; she doesn’t care about what people think of her as long as she can get her message across and get people to start taking action. Here are some of the statements made to the U.K. Parliament earlier this year “Did you hear what I just said? Is my English O.K.? Is my Microphone on? Because I’m beginning to wonder?”

Greta Thunberg is pushing back for the rights of the planet and making politicians feel very sheepish for not prioritizing climate change sooner. She has now changed the term climate change to **CLIMATE CRISIS**. European nations are finally beginning to sit up and take note, following a barrage of protests and demonstrations such as the one in London. Greta is not your average activist who “ties themselves to trees”, she is taking the fight directly to the nation’s leaders and doing it in a way that will hurt the economy in due course: she’s impeding the in-school education of the youth.

## **References**

Haynes, S. 2019. Next Generation Leaders, Time Magazine, Vol: 193 (20).

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## International News



### International POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants.) Elimination Network (IPEN) - "A toxics-free future" - <https://ipen.org/>

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

#### Main Aims



In 1998, IPEN was registered in Sweden as a non-profit, public interest organisation. It now comprises a global network of over 500 public interest, non-governmental organisations in more than 100 countries. Although IPEN is a global organisation, and does formulate global campaigns and policies, it also acts on a local and regional level. Its overarching aim is to create a toxic-free environment where chemical production, use and disposal do not harm the environment or people. It aims to protect some of the world's most vulnerable people from toxic chemicals, including women and children.

IPEN also aims to reduce and eliminate the world's most harmful chemicals, including lead and mercury. IPEN seeks to hold the private sector accountable to disclose information about what chemicals are in their products. In contrast, the organisation promotes agroecology and toxics-free electronics.

#### Major Achievements

IPEN is now the leading global organization on policy and control of production, use and disposal of toxic substances. Its technical expertise and global experience in over 400 projects in 80 countries has meant that not only do governments, international leaders and industry recognize the organization, but it has impacted our cumulative approach to chemical safety. A particular emphasis of IPEN has been to prevent developing nations from becoming the dumping ground for waste, particularly electronic.

Arguable IPEN's major achievement was: *The First Global, Legally-Binding Treaty to Mandate the Phase-out and Elimination of the World's Most Dangerous Toxic Chemicals.*

#### Projects

1. Small Scale Strategic Projects: Funds provided for 100 on-the-ground NGO projects in 50 countries, for example the International Mercury Treaty Enabling Activities Program (IMEAP) in 2014 implemented the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
2. Broaden Global Constituencies: Raise awareness in more than 1000 NGOs in 115 countries to develop chemical policies for sustainable development. IPEN works with NGOs to generate data, implement chemical policies, access input, and strengthen relationships with other NGOs and public interest groups.
3. Implemented International Treaty On the Ground: Provided funds, advice and help to 200 NGOs in 65 countries to complete 291 projects advancing national policy and public knowledge about the global treaty to eliminate POPs.
4. China Chemical Safety Project: From 2012-14 EU funded this action of IPEN with Czech and Chinese NGO partners. It aimed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations and communities impacted by pollution in China.

#### Campaigns

1. Mercury Free campaign: Mercury enters the waterway and then is transformed by microorganisms into methylmercury, an even more toxic substance. This is absorbed by the smallest organisms in the oceanic food chain and becomes more concentrated further up the chain. By testing fish and human hair samples (see below), mercury levels can be estimated. These can cause birth defects; a 2018 study found elevated mercury levels in three-quarters of women of childbearing age in countries across the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean.



2. Lead Paint Elimination campaign: Lead is found in paint around the world, especially in developing countries (see map: darker circles indicate increased presence of lead). Lead limits child brain development and is harmful to adults. **There is no safe limit of lead.** NGOs are forming cooperatives with governments, industry and the public to eliminate lead in paint.



3. Toxic Free SDGs campaign: Although in 2006, governments had adopted the SAICM Dubai Declaration to achieve the SDGs by the sound management of chemicals, this will expire in 2020. IPEN's campaign is to challenge the international community to continue this beyond 2020.
4. Waste Incineration and Toxic free Eggs: This test targeted free-range eggs and the concentration of U-POPs (unintentional persistent organic pollutants). It emphasised the need to minimise formation and release of POPs by using substitute materials or destroying them more completely in waste.
5. Toxic Free electronic goods: The manufacture of electronic goods involves the use of over 1000 chemicals, many toxic. As production of electronic goods has shifted to Asia, poor regulation has led to the exposure of 90% of women to chemicals that are endocrine disruptors, carcinogens, mutagens, and reproductive and developmental toxicants. IPEN campaigns for electronic products to be designed and produced such that their manufacture, use and recycling or disposal is eliminated.



(Image sourced from <https://ipen.org/projects/Toxics-Free-Electronics>)

### Contact

A non-profit, non-governmental organization that works for the public interest and supports IPEN's mission can become a Participating Organization of IPEN by: endorsing IPEN's Stockholm, Dubai and Minamata Declarations. Please send an email with a short description of your NGO (and web site address if you have one) to the IPEN Secretariat at [ipen@ipen.org](mailto:ipen@ipen.org)

### Resources

<https://ipen.org/documents/lead-solvent-based-paints-home-use-global-report>

<https://ipen.org/articles/big-picture-video>

<https://ipen.org/chemical-victims>

<https://ipen.org/documents/toxic-soup-dioxins-plastic-toys>

<https://ipen.org/documents/mercury-threat-women-children>

<https://ipen.org/documents/ocean-pollutants-guide>

<https://ipen.org/news/press-release-mercury-treaty-cop2-inches-forward-non-binding-guidance-while-global-mercury>



**Peace, Education, Art and Communication (PEAC) Institute - <https://www.peacinstitute.org/>**  
*(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)*

#### *Main Aims*

The fundamental focus of Peace, Education, Art and Communication (PEAC) is the Hibakusha Appeal to end nuclear weapons. As they so poignantly describe in their video, it is either the end of weapons or the end of us. This appeal was started after the devastating effects of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; now its proponents are in their 80s and want to see nuclear weapons ended in their lifetime. PEAC have devoted their website to this Appeal which includes a worldwide petition to end nuclear weapons. In December 2018, PEAC took a group of students to the Nuclear Disarmament Global Youth Forum Treaty in Auckland - recognising the change-making force of young people and the necessity to engage youth in high-level security discussions.

In contrast, PEAC defines itself as "Peace Culture". This is described in terms of social health. Bodily health requires nutrition, clean water and a supportive environment. Peace culture is that which considers collective needs and encompasses restoring the planet and all its inhabitants to good health. Their goal in a peace culture is "sustainable universal wellbeing". In contrast, we are now engaged in war culture which is a competitive effort to improve the state of the individual or a sub-group of people. Its hallmark is the acceptance of violence to be an appropriate method of conflict resolution. This is in direct contrast to peace culture.



## National News



**National Toxics Network (NTN) - <https://ntn.org.au/>**  
*(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)*

#### *Main Aims*

The National Toxics Network (NTN) is the Australian focus on the International POPs Elimination Network. It aims to create a toxics-free future and the full implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The core aims of the NTN are: pollution reduction, environmental health protection and environmental justice.



### Major Achievements

NTN committee members have participated in a range of state, national and international government advisory bodies such as:

- UN working groups
- National Advisory Body on Scheduled Waste
- Stockholm Convention Reference Group
- National Industrial Chemicals Notification Assessment Scheme Technical Advisory Group, Community Engagement Forum and Strategic Consultative Committee
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Advisory Committee

### Projects

NTN have produced a large number of reports, presentations, community guides, published papers and submissions. A recent example of this is the Oceans Pollutants Guide- Toxic Threats to Human Health and Marine Life published in October 2018 with IPEN.



*“Every day an ever-increasing cocktail of intentional and unintentional chemical releases, as well as an unrelenting tidal wave of wastes, particularly plastic waste, enters our waterways and the marine environment”. 80% of this waste comes from the land, often as stormwater. Pollutants include POPs, endocrine disrupting chemicals, mercury and heavy metal compounds, pesticides, and other industrial and agricultural compounds. That this disrupts the normal functioning and reproduction of aquatic organisms is indisputable; the exact mechanisms by which they do so is uncertain.*

A Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Inquiry in 2018 was held into the management of PFAS contamination in and around Defence bases. This followed a draft PFAS National Environment Management Plan in 2017.

### Campaigns

1. A Consensus Statement: Zero Waste Solutions for Australia not Waste Incineration (June 2018). This Statement was circulated for people to sign, demanding an immediate end to waste energy incineration. Instead, the target was for zero waste models of waste management with full community engagement and inclusion. This emphasizes the adoption of a circular economy, rather than the dangerous air and ash emissions left by incineration.
2. Community Engagement Plan: The UN has recognized that change in the way we view and handle waste will only occur when all stakeholders are engaged in discussion.

NTN defines it as such:

*“the process by which governments and industry involve civil society in their decision-making processes. Many forms of community engagement exist, ranging from advisory bodies, consultative forums, direct public participation in consensus decision-making, through to public meetings where the community is informed about a project or a decision”*

A plan of action can be formulated from the consultative process and needs to identify key stakeholders, define the aim, objectives and rationale of the engagement, develop guiding principles and protocols, identify and utilize resources, work within timeframes and develop review, monitoring and feedback.



3. Media: In 2018, NTN was involved in major media campaigns on waste incineration. Firstly, on World Environment Day they joined with other zero waste organizations to demand an end to governmental support for waste incineration. They also championed the decision of the NSW Government not to proceed with waste incineration in Sydney's Eastern Creek.

Contact

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Australian Youth Climate Coalition- <http://www.aycc.org.au/>

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

# THIS GENERATION WILL NOT WAIT

Main Aims

AYCC, the Australian Youth Climate Coalition is a growing momentum of 150,000 people fighting for a safe climate for their generation and future generations. As people who will be directly impacted by political and industrial decisions, their voice cannot be ignored. On 4 December 2018, students held a demonstration and press conference outside Parliament House. Their purpose: to stop the Adani mine and to switch Australia to 100% clean energy by 2030. As Gemma Borgo-Caratti, National Director of AYCC said, “You have a choice to make: stand with us and stop the Adani mine, or we will be everywhere you go, everywhere you look and we’ll see you at the ballot box next election”.

Adani’s Carmichael coal mine, planned by an Indian coal mining magnate, has been supported by both the Federal and Queensland State governments. It will be the biggest mine in the southern hemisphere, and cause four times the amount of carbon pollution in Australia per year. It will also significantly impact our reef.



AYCC have also implemented Seed, Australia’s first Indigenous youth climate network. It aims to create a just and sustainable society with strong ties to culture and community. There is a growing recognition that Indigenous people lived sustainably on our continent long before British settlement and that creating a sustainable environment can be linked to a just society. Another campaign is a total ban on fracked shale gas in the Northern Territory as it is damaging water, country and climate, especially vulnerable Indigenous people’s lands.

## 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.)