



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2019 #11 --- Nov 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,

It's November and the festive season is coming soon. As a special early gift, we have sourced some great stories for the November issue of the bulletin. Please enjoy!

Regards,

Karolina Firman and Frank Ondrus, joint Newsletter Editors – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

2019 National/International Events Calendar

November

5	World Tsunami Awareness Day
9	HOPE Annual General Meeting (AGM), Toowoomba QLD
10-17	Pollinator Week-
11-17	National Recycling Week
13	International GIS Day
21	World Fisheries Day

December

2	HOPE End-Of-Year Social, City Golf Club, Toowoomba
3	International Day of People with Disability
5	International Volunteer Day
5	World Soil Day
7	International Civil Aviation Day
10	Human Rights Day
11	International Mountain Day

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
 - Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets
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HOPE Office News --- November 2019

Good morning folks,

October highlights included:

- the re-installation of Windows 10 Pro and updating to MS Office 2019 software;
- the office closure for 3 weeks whilst my wife Mary and I visited elderly relatives in Tamworth (NSW) and Shepparton (Vic.); and, on our return
- preparation for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the new Management Team for 2019-2020.

November activities include:

- our AGM on Saturday 9 November 2019 and the Election of Office Bearers for 2019-2020. Nominations have been received for most positions except for Membership Officer and Media officers. Please consider stepping up to help with these important admin tasks.
- Following the AGM, the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the new Management Committee Team will be held.

Moring tea and a light lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 6th November to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

Lastly, please note that our End-of-Year Social will be a dinner at the City Golf Club, Toowoomba.

Please RSVP by Friday 29 November to office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone 07 4639 2135 so that we may finalise our numbers with the venue. Dinner will commence at 6.30pm.

Regards,

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

www.hopeaustralia.org.au

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/> .

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Economic depressions or meltdowns have occurred since capitalism began a few hundred years ago. Initially they were limited to one country or region, but with the development of international trade and globalisation they have become global phenomena.

The first major economic depression was the Great Depression of the 1930's. Since then economic depressions have tended to occur in a repeating 20 years cycles. They have been caused by a sudden drop in oil production in the 1970s, and more recently by the failures of the banks, stock markets and governments, particularly in the US.

Capitalism is an economic system that developed during the period of colonialism and slavery. It was cobbled together by the colonial governments and wealthy landowners and industrialist of the time to further their interests. It wasn't a thought-out system or designed to benefit the whole of humanity or built for efficiency or minimum waste and pollution, and the environment was never considered.

Capitalism is a rocky system that moves through boom and bust cycles. It delivers jobs and wealth for some during the boom phase but creates misery during the bust phase, and economic depressions are at the extreme of the bust phase. Some of the characteristics of capitalism include private property and ownership of the means of production, unsustainable growth, competition, making a profit, accumulation of capital, exploitation of wage labour, extraction of natural resources, and un-costed negative externalities.

Governments and most political parties around the world continue to choose capitalism as the system of choice to run their economies even though it fails to deliver on stability, equity and sustainability. Capitalism is responsible for our current mass extinction. If humans become part of this extinction and cockroaches survive, are they destined to evolve into bankers and capitalists in ever repeating cycles?

Rowland Benjamin (WA)

Queensland News

Bottled water

By Gemma Styles, HOPE admin volunteer Qld

When I was in primary school, I remember being told that in the future, doors would open automatically and bottled water would be sold on the shelves of supermarkets. The first prediction was fascinating, but the second was kind of odd. I couldn't fathom how such a thing would actually be viable. Who would pay money to buy something we could get for free from taps? Of course, tap water isn't very nice and bottled water proclaimed to be from the very best sources, so naturally, the bottled water industry took off. With ever growing fears for the health of our current population, obesity has driven the sales of bottled water through the roof, while soft drink sales continue to decline. When it comes to choosing between the health of our people (and admittedly our own convenience) and the health of our planet, many are putting the environment last. But what if I told you there was no need to choose, and what if I told you that bottled water holds as many risks for your health as it does for the planet? Here are the facts:

Environmental Risks:

- It takes twice as much water to produce a plastic bottle as the bottle itself can hold.
- 400,000 barrels of oil are used every year to produce the plastic used for single use bottles.
- Only 30% of these bottles are recycled.

Health Risks to Human Beings:

- Chemicals used in single use bottles leach into the water. These chemicals are linked to cancer and can mimic female hormones causing an increase in severity of PMS and other female issues.
- Bottled water is not heavily regulated nor tested for safety very often, whereas tap water is frequently tested and any health risks must be fixed by law. Arsenic has been detected in some bottled waters.
- Bottled water costs are an unnecessary drain on our finances and is often just purified water that does not always contain the minerals it claims to.

Considering the irreversible ramifications of plastic on our environment, the proven health concerns for our own health, the knowledge that corporations cannot be trusted to make sure their products are safe and the financial drain of buying bottled water, this is an industry we can no longer buy into.

What can you do?

- Install a water purifier at home. There are many types of water purifiers available on the market varying in both price and effectiveness. If you can't afford the top of the range, rest assured that the cheapest is still better than nothing and it is definitely worth the expenditure.
- Purchase an aluminum or glass water bottle: Remembering to fill up a safe water bottle before you leave the house won't take long and before you know it, this habit will be saving you money and you can feel great about saving the environment in such a simple way.
- Educate your friends: Once you have made the change, tell your friends! Just because it is simple to do, doesn't mean it isn't of dire importance.

So next time you reach for that bottled water at the supermarket or local cafe, think twice. Remember that our world is suffering, our health is suffering and you can make the change.





**Reviva Toowoomba “Open Day”
Presentation, 7 August 2019**

Resource Recovery Australia
<https://www.resourcerecovery.org.au/>

Good morning and welcome to Reviva Toowoomba.

We pay respect to the Jarowair-Giabal people of the Toowoomba region, to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Thank you all for coming today. My name is Jeff Prater, I am the site manager of the RRA facilities here at the GTWMF. I would also like to introduce Matt Curtis, the General Manager of RRA, Ally Glendenning, our Retail Outlets Manager and Benjamin Owen, one of our supervisors here on this site.

Before we begin our presentation today, I just like to make you all aware of a couple of things. In the event of an emergency, our assembly area is located at the top of the shop carpark. The toilets are just outside at the western end of the building.

Resource Recovery Australia is a not-for-profit, social enterprise, our expertise constitutes the managing of Re-Use shops, transfer stations, Community Recycling Centres, weighbridges and diversion from landfill. We operate 8 sites nationally. Our motto and our model, Waste 2 Wages, focuses around employing and upskilling disadvantaged people in the community, such as long term unemployed, refugees, criminal history etc., creating jobs that make our communities better.

Re-Use and recycle is an important facet of our business. By diverting reclaimed items away from landfill, on-selling those items or re-purposing them into useful everyday items, examples here today are our planter boxes that you can see out the front of the shop that contain the inner casing of fridges that have been reworked to form the basis of the boxes and Trevor the Trolley, which is an old wooden BBQ trolley that can be utilized in the garden as a planter stand, a drinks cart for parties, or as one customer has done, a workbench for her mosaic works.

Resource Recovery Australia is part of a larger group of companies. Community Resources is our parent company. It is a national, not-for-profit organization established in 1987. CR employs 435 people nationally of which RRA employs 82. Through our Waste 2 Wages model we have achieved 11,290 training hours for our staff. On this site, this has included Test and tag certification, forklift tickets, white cards, first aid and HSR training. CR group has diverted 40,000 tonnes from landfill in the past 12 months.

We have a number of sister companies whose scope covers various social and community agendas. Soft Landing is a mattress recycling operation. Mattresses are broken down and steel and foam are sourced for recycling and re-use.

Green Connect is located in the Illawarra region growing fair food, creating jobs and less waste. It employs young people and former refugees to do work that makes the community better.

Helping Hands is a home maintenance and modification service which supports the elderly and disabled, aiming to create aboriginal apprenticeships in the building industry.

Home Base is a dedicated service for young people in the Tuncurry and Taree areas. It has a youth crisis centre and provides support to homeless youth through programs such as transition to work and the youth service which offers help through advocacy, training, activities and events.

WasteAid works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to create long-term sustainable solutions to address inadequate waste management in remote Australia. It assists these communities to leverage their own skills and expertise to manage environmental problems on their own land.

We are interested in forming partnerships in the local community as we have done elsewhere nationally through working in conjunction with social services, work for the dole programs, green bikes, bikes 4 life and Deadly Espresso Noosa.

For further information on Resource Recovery Australia, view their PowerPoint presentation at <https://www.resourcerecovery.org.au/>.

National News



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

(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

Main Aims

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC), or “Living the Change” is a multi-faith community initiated at the UN Climate Conference in 2017 by GreenFaith, a US based organisation. It now comprises Hindu, Roman Catholic, Islam, Jewish, Buddhist, and Protestant, Orthodox and Evangelical Christians. Given that six billion people worldwide claim some religious affiliation, it was recognised that this presented a powerful tool to address climate change in a concerted effort. It was spearheaded by the stunning fact that if the world’s top 10% of carbon dioxide emitters cut their emissions to the average level of an European Union citizen, global emissions would decline by 33%. If it was the top 20% emitters, the reduction would be 40%.

“Living the Change” states that our Earth is a precious gift and we each bear a responsibility to “walk more gently” upon it. Although world leaders have agreed to keep global warming at 1.5C, ARRCC warns that current trends indicate that the level will be twice that limit. Politicians need to legislate for change. However, this organisation also asks people to consider their values and change in three simple but highly effective ways:

1. Reduce transport based on fossil fuels
2. Shift to a plant rather than animal-based diet
3. Practice energy efficiency and source energy from renewables.



Circular is the new linear! - by the Circular Economy Lab, www.circularecolab.com .

What does it mean to rethink waste?

In Australia, the pressure to clean up our act is mounting, as we look for ways to do more than just reduce, reuse and recycle. All the while, a new type of conversation is happening globally that sees a transformation in the way we create, capture and deliver value. Business and consumers are this movement towards a circular model that creates new opportunities and new value. This is the shift towards a circular economy.

The circular economy is a global dialogue grounded in action. It places ‘value’ at the forefront of attention. This extends beyond the waste pandemic and looks at how we might change behaviours and mindsets to shift the way we produce, use and consume. It involves systemic thinking and problem solving. The circular economy is, by its very nature, collaborative.

What does collaboration look like in action? It looks like Australian leadership, from government and industry, to be bold and take advantage of the circular shift that is already underway globally.

The Circular Economy Lab is a platform for this type of multi-party innovation.

Launched in February this year by Business Models Inc and Coreo, the [Circular Economy Lab](http://www.circularecolab.com) brings together 27 leaders of industry who are committed to accelerating the transition towards a circular economy in Queensland. It is a mix of organisations across a range of industries, from Brisbane Airport Corporation, SUEZ, Meat and Livestock Australia, LendLease, Statewide Recycling and Container Exchange QLD to Fisher & Paykel, Rio Tinto, Jones Lang LaSalle and local companies like BlockTexx, Evolve Group and EverLedger. There are also several non-profit organisations involved including Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation

and Australian Bioplastics Association. The Lab journey uses the Business Models Inc framework and design thinking methodology to help participants identify entrenched industry challenges and unearth creative ways to address them. Across five teams, the Lab participants embarked on this journey to not only take part in the learning exchange but to create opportunities that they are invested in implementing. Each team carried their own unique focus area that represented the opportunities identified by the unique industry cohort. Bringing together Coreo's expertise in circularity and global network of insights, from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation to Sitra Finland, the Lab draws on international best practice and provides a platform for Queensland's industries to lead the way. From valorising waste streams to redesigning the way we interact with material household products; the Lab teams are focused on solving big problems and creating tangible opportunities.

Demonstrating support from Queensland leaders, Queensland's Chief Entrepreneur Leanne Kemp said the Circular Economy Lab means Queensland is amongst the world leaders in acknowledging that there is an urgent need for a circular economy. "For a long time, we've existed in a linear take-make-dispose economy. A circular economy is not just about recycling the products we use, it's about creating new economic opportunities," Ms. Kemp said.

Over the course of three months, and across four dedicated workshops, the Lab teams have not only learnt about circularity and its guiding principles but also how to implement them through commercial solutions that deliver environmental, economic and social impact. With the workshops completed, the teams are now preparing for their final pitch in front of a panel of esteemed investment judges and members of the public, where they will be vying for investment from a pool of \$100K. This is Australia's first circular seed fund and is supported by the Queensland Department of Environment and Science. The judges will be assessing the teams' solutions based on its desirability, feasibility, viability and circularity, particularly zooming in on the anticipated economic, social and environmental impact of each concept. Winners of the prize money are committed to implementing their solution and furthering their exploration of circular economy principles and opportunities across their industry. Teams will be pitching on Tuesday the 18th of June and we can't wait to find out which solutions will be backed and rolled out across Queensland!

To find out more and follow the progress updates on the Circular Economy Lab, head to www.circularecolab.com.



We Want You! - It's not too late to join ABC in the war on waste.

By Gemma Styles, HOPE admin volunteer Qld

Series 3 of ABC's *War on Waste* focused on plastic usage and technology waste while spin off series on ABC Me creatively draws younger viewers into the waste issue by following three

students transforming their schools over 8 weeks.

Airing first in 2017, ABC's *War on Waste* focuses on a different aspect of waste each episode. Often enlightening, the show challenges what we think we know about Australia's waste crisis and shows us how easy it is to make a difference. All episodes from season 1 through to the current season 3 can be found on ABC Iview, as well as a Question and Answer panel, tips for winning the *War on Waste*, practical advice on recycling and quizzes on topics that affect us all. You can also take the *War on Waste* pledge.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) is committed to waste minimisation and the conservation of energy and resources. We promote "personal responsibility for the protection of our environment" and as such invite our readers to support ABC's *War on Waste*. Saving our environment has never been easier.

To educate yourself and become a part of the solution you can visit the website below:
<http://www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/waronwaste/>

International News



Eco-Business - <https://www.eco-business.com>
(Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld)

Main Aims

Eco-Business is the premier digital media company in the Asia Pacific region. Its underlying purpose is to educate businesses across Asia Pacific how to be environmentally and socially responsible by following low-carbon principles. Eco-Business aims to achieve clean technology, and sustainable communities, cities, and businesses by publication, research, multimedia, consultancy and training.

By giving business, government, NGOs and research institutions the opportunity to publish their stories, Eco-Business creates public awareness and best practice. Companies are given an opportunity to demonstrate their cleantech solutions through advertising, social media, editorials, roundtables, media involvement and multimedia production.

Eco-Business has headquarters in Singapore, but it also operates in Sydney, Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. All members of Eco-business' team are highly experienced writers, photographers and videographers and are expert in fields such as finance, economics, environment and climate change. This has made Eco-Business the leader in news for Asian Pacific sustainable business.



Singapore: a greened vision of the future that is not just about liveability, but a more sustainable financial ecosystem, says Steven Stone. Image: Pexels



Change Must Come From Within – #OceanGovernance | <http://oceangovernance.org/>

“Ocean governance is the integrated conduct of the policy, actions and affairs regarding the world’s oceans to protect ocean environment, sustainable use of coastal and marine resources as well as to conserve of its biodiversity.”



Talking about change one is often reminded of this quote by Niccolò Machiavelli – “It should be borne in mind that there is nothing more difficult to arrange, more doubtful of success, and more dangerous to carry through than initiating changes. The innovator makes enemies of all those who prospered under the old order, and only lukewarm support is forthcoming from those who would prosper under the new. Their support is lukewarm ... partly because people are generally incredulous, never really trusting new things unless they have tested them by experience”. But perhaps he was talking about changes that are externally imposed.

The Mahatma famously said ‘Be the change you want to see in the world’. Michael Jackson sang of the ‘Man in the Mirror’. Choose your hero, Michael or the Mahatma, but the message is simple. Our whole thinking must change. We have to expect less from others and ask ourselves what we can do for the others.

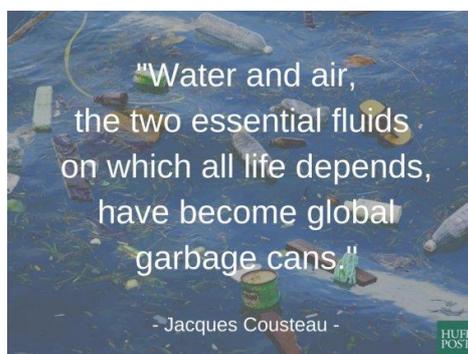
As the joke goes – the Dalai Lama had just won the Nobel Prize and was feeling somewhat peckish. So, he goes to a nearby eatery to order a pizza. The young man taking the order asks him, what sort of pizza do you want, Sir. And Dalai Lama says somewhat tongue-in-cheek, ‘make me one with everything’. Plush with the Nobel cash, he pays with a \$20 bill and waits his turn. He gets the pizza and somewhat uneasily asks the young man ‘where’s the change’ and he replies with a chuckle ‘the change Sir, must come from within’. Jokes apart, the takeaway here is that each one of us has to be that agent of change.

As a teenager, one saw images of the iconic Ford Mustang and heard that driving it North South along the Pacific Coastal Highway in California was the thing to do. When I first travelled to California I neither had the time nor the money to indulge in this cherished activity. On some subsequent visits, I had the money but no time. On my most recent trip, I was fortunate to have both the time and money to fulfil my dream. But then I thought, do I really need to do this? Can my money be directed to something somewhat more useful? This ability to distinguish between what you want and what you need must come from within.

When we are young, we have our whole life ahead of us but we are very impatient. As we grow older, we are increasingly aware that our time on the earth is getting progressively limited yet we tend to get infinitely more patient with things around us. This is a dichotomy or a contradiction but it is also a change in perception that comes from within through self-awakening or self-realisation or whatever we may choose to call it. Curiously, one is also eager to make a difference to the extent one can.

The recognition therefore, that the time to do something about the environment is rather limited and if we don’t do something, our future generations will never forgive us, is something that must come from within. And only when that ‘change’ among us happens will we do something about protecting and preserving our environment for our children and our children’s children. Each one of us can and should be that agent of change and ensure that the we do our utmost to inculcate this idea in at least another person so he or she also has this feeling that the change must come from within.

sunil@OceanGovernance.org | <http://OceanGovernance.org/> | [@GovernanceOcean](#)



Resources and interesting articles

Recycling rates could rise significantly with this simple tweak by Karen Winterich; Gabriel E. Gonzales; and Gergana Nenkov in *The Conversation*.

Opening paragraph:

'Have you ever thought about what happens to the empty Coke cans and food takeout containers you toss in your recycling bins?

Our research suggests that if you're like most Americans, you've probably never considered this question. This was surprising to us given that, by definition, a recyclable is a product that has future use.

As consumer psychologists, we wondered if emphasizing this transformation in messages promoting recycling would better motivate people to put more of their empty cans, rigid plastic containers and discarded papers into the blue bins'.

Recycling crisis prompts call to switch to six-bins system for Victorian rubbish collection by Ben Knight in *ABC News*.

Opening paragraph:

'Victorian households could be separating rubbish into six or more bins — instead of the usual two or three — to help solve the state's recycling crisis.

It is one of several proposed ideas to rescue the state's collapsed recycling sector, published in an interim report to the State Government by Infrastructure Victoria'.

The Shop Ethical! guide has been updated for 2019.

The ninth edition of the guide provides environmental information and details on the social track record of the companies behind common brands found in most Australian supermarkets. Companies are assessed from the top down, including parent companies. Assessment covers environmental and social impact, treatment of animals and accountable business practice.

Companies are then given a rating from A (denoting praise with no criticism) to F (criticism only).

The pocket-size shopping guide helps consumers match their shopping habits with their values. It offers practical tips for action in areas such as plastic waste, food miles, palm oil, overfishing, animal welfare, child labour and multinational ownership.

Shop Ethical! co-founder Nick Ray said: "Ethical consumerism has come a long way since we started Shop Ethical! over 10 years ago. People are now more conscious about what they buy and which companies they support. Our guide helps make that decision-making process easier."

Mr. Ray said the goal of the guide was to reach a mainstream audience with some new criteria for purchasing their everyday essentials. He said the guide included common brands found in most supermarkets. It did not cover house brands because it was difficult to find comprehensive information on who manufactured specific house brand products.

The \$10 pocket guide is available from www.ethical.org.

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.)