



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #03 --- 8 May 2012

The following items have been gleaned 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.

Hi there!

I hope you all had a happy Easter break and enjoyed the fine weather (in SE Queensland at least). Those of you who made it to the beach might be particularly interested in this month's feature article 'Green Economy in a Blue World' by Kate Barralet. For those that prefer to stay at home we have an article about the new Workshops at Home by The Self Sufficiency Shoppe.

Also, please have a look at the Office News report and our volunteer requirements.

Miriam Sharp, Editor - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May

- 8-10 - [OZ' Water Week 2011](#)
- 14-15 - [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- 14-20 - [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 18 - [International Museum Day](#)
- 18 - [Walk Safely to School Day](#)
- 22 - [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 26 - [National Sorry Day](#)
- 27 May -3 June - [National Reconciliation Week](#)

June

- [World Environment Day: 5 June 2012](#)

This year's theme - *Green Economy: Does it include you?* - underpins the concept of an economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. The theme also supports one of the main objectives of the Rio+20 Summit at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012.

- 28-30 - Queensland State Landcare Conference, Brisbane

The theme for this year's [Queensland State Landcare Conference](#) is '*Paddocks, Backyards and Balconies ... Together, making a difference*'. The conference aims to take affirmative steps towards the future of landcare. It will be open to community groups outside the landcare sector, to provide fresh insight on how to develop strong, vibrant and sustainable groups.

October

- 29 October - 2 November 2012 - [ANPC NATIONAL CONFERENCE: Plant Conservation in Australia, Achievement & Future Directions](#)

Planning for the [9th ANPC National Conference](#) is progressing and registrations will open shortly.

The conference will:

- review and highlight plant conservation achievements in Australia over the last two decades,
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our existing approaches to plant conservation,
- highlight current major issues facing plant conservation in Australia, and
- identify plant conservation directions in Australia for the coming decades.

Further information available from the [conference website](#).

Advertisement

2012 National Environmental Grants Guide Now Available

Hot off the press! Yarramine Environmental's annual directory lists grant and funding opportunities available from the Australian and State Governments, corporate giving programs as well as the major Australian philanthropic funds and trusts. The handy glove box sized (A5) Guide will prove to be a convenient resource for community environment and Landcare groups as well as regional NRM bodies, Councils and others when seeking funds to assist with a variety of their environmental improvement and natural resource management projects. Designed to present grant information to readers in an easy to access manner, the Guide includes information on how much funding is available for each grant opportunity, how to apply and who is eligible. Website links are also provided along with useful contact details (where available) to help readers obtain further information. A sample listing from the 2012 edition - which contains over 200 listings - as well as a mail/fax order form is available for download from the consultancy's website - www.yarramine.com.au. Guides cost \$39.95 each and this includes postage and handling. For general information about Yarramine Environmental's Grants Guide please contact Amanda Kimball on (07) 4638 2442 or at grantsguide@yarramine.com.au.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Frank,

Pleased to see the letter of Ian Barralet [in HOPE e:news bulletin #2].

Last year I suggested that HOPE set up a Sustainable Transport Eco-mobility Group. HOPE members need to do more to raise concerns on \$55M public funds diverted to reward "car-go" culture; free trade import addiction; and facilitating upgrades to James Street, Outer Circulating ring road, range crossing. ...

Regards

Rama Naidu

Word from the President: What do our local readers think about Rama's letter? Should we be doing more to promote transport alternatives - such as moving freight by rail; and greater use of public transport? Please send your comments to office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Office News

What an interesting and busy time it has been for us here at the HOPE office over the past 6 weeks.

Apart from the day to day activities, we have provided considerable support to the various committees and project working groups with highlights being:

- the online NRMA funding application to deliver a series of Eco Hero workshops for 3-8 year olds living in western Queensland - Eddie Dowd, Eco Hero Publishing;
- the planning and preparation of the Schools Sustainability Forum (27 April);
- the staffing of several HOPE information displays at USQ (University of Southern Queensland) Toowoomba; and
- the replenishment/maintenance of environmental information displays located at the Toowoomba City Library and USQ

The regional *Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP)* program is progressing well with 2 NGOs and 2 businesses signing up; and expressions of interest received from several other NGOs.

HOPE is holding a *Low Carbon Futures* information session on Saturday 26 May, 9am - 12noon at the Jacaranda Conference Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba. Featured presenters are ClimateWorks Australia and Excel Solar. See accompanying flyer for full details and to register your attendance.

HOPE has been invited to have an information display at the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival (12 Aug) and the USQ Seniors Expo (22 Aug). Offers of assistance to help with transporting equipment and materials, as well as staffing the displays would be appreciated. Please contact the office if you can assist with any of these upcoming events.

Lastly, as I've said on many occasions "many hands make light work". So if you have some spare time and skills that HOPE could utilise, please give the office a call with your offer of assistance.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager and President

Volunteers needed

HOPE is looking for extra volunteers who can help in the following areas:

Admin assistance; literature review and follow-up internet research; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets.

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.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time; or at other times by appointment.

Feature Articles

Green Economy in a Blue World Report- an overview article by Kate Judith, HOPE Australia

In January this year The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released its *Green Economy in a Blue World* report. Not a review of the state of the oceans, this report is development oriented, and provides broad ranging advice about how humans across the planet might manage the oceans in a more sustainable way, and derive more sustainable economic benefit from them.

The report presents its review and suggestions in six marine-based economic sectors.

Fisheries and aquaculture

The UNEP finds that 'approximately 30 per cent of the world's fish stocks are overexploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion and 50 per cent are fully exploited'. World Bank estimates suggest that restoring fish stocks and reducing fishing capacity to an optimal level would provide about USD 50 billion annually for the world economy. The UNEP notes that fishing industries have strong social roles in their communities, and that fishers should be actively involved in stewardship of an ecosystem approach. They provide evidence that small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are more responsible and more socially beneficial, and suggest small-scale fisheries should be strengthened. Large-scale fishing operations can reduce their carbon footprint with new technologies, but the report provides no new advice about how to reduce the damage to ocean ecosystems caused by large scale fisheries.

Marine transport

The report is highly encouraging of the continued dominance of international commerce by shipping transports, as it is safer and more environmentally sound than the alternatives. Further greening could be achieved, by enforcing standards better, switching ships to environmentally sound fuels, preventing the transfer of invasive aquatic species in ballast water and on hulls and addressing the problems of the increasing size of ships.

Marine-based renewable energy

There is a wide range of marine-based renewable energy technologies in trial or operation around the world. The report identifies these as important opportunities for the future, but also raises concerns about possible environmental damage that will need to be minimized. The report suggests governments should use grants, subsidies and tax credits to build this industry.

Ocean nutrient pollution

Fertilizers from agriculture are making their way into the oceans and leading to the degradation of marine ecosystems and groundwater, including the formation of thousands of oxygen-poor 'dead' zones, which cannot support marine ecosystems at all, and cost an estimated 320 billion euro in lost income from fisheries and tourism per year. The level of reactive nitrogen in the biogeochemical system is currently about 150% of pre-industrial levels and increasing rapidly.

The report suggests we need to recover and recycle waste nutrients back into our agriculture again. To do this they advise governments will need a range of taxation, regulation and policy tools.

Coastal tourism

The tourism economy accounts for 5 percent of global GDP and contributes 6 to 7 per cent of total employment. More than one-third of travelers favour environmentally friendly tourism. However, more tourists are flying longer distances more often for shorter stays. That means tourism is growing in significance for global warming. Global warming has a profound effect on marine and coastal environments causing ocean acidification, coastal erosion caused by sea level rise, coral bleaching and loss of ocean biodiversity.

The report suggests environmental tourism that uses local sustainably grown products and safeguards local culture should be promoted. It wants to see improved waste management, financing strategies to

fund green investments and support small and medium size enterprises, energy efficiency, cross-sectorial consultation and integrated coastal zone management.

Deep-sea minerals

The report sees deep-sea minerals as a new revenue stream that could fund national development goals. It recognizes that mining in the deep oceans will have as yet unmeasured and unpredicted ecological impacts, but still promotes this activity, suggesting that 'best practice' can mine as well as preserve ecosystems.

Finally, the UNEP Green Economy in a Blue World report notes that the small island developing nations face particular stresses in the current world. They are suffering increasing damage from cyclones, sea level rise, loss of fisheries and tourism. The report suggests environmental tourism and renewable energy as helpful for these nations.

In summary, this report offers some bland and uncontroversial advice that prioritises economic growth over ecological health and is little more than a slightly greener version of business as usual.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from www.unep.org/pdf/green_economy_blue.pdf

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC)

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC) is Australia's largest integrated invasive animal research program. Since 2005 and now with Australian Government and other funding from its Participants across Australia and from overseas to 2017, the IA CRC creates new technologies and integrated strategies to reduce the impact of invasive animals on Australia's economy, environment, and people. Target species in Australia are rabbits, foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs, feral cats, rats and mice, carp and other pest fish as well as many other vertebrate pest animals.

The Invasive Animals CRC key objectives are to:

- develop new tools and strategies to control invasive animals
- develop new services and remove impediments to empower communities to take greater and more effective action against invasive animals
- advance understanding of the nature and behaviour of Australasia's invasive animals to maximise research delivery
- provide partners with mechanisms for national and international business collaboration, to facilitate route to market for products and services
- build greater capacity to anticipate, detect, prevent, limit or manage the impacts of existing or new invasive animals.

To learn more, please subscribe to our fortnightly e-newsletter 'Feral Flyer' at

www.invasiveanimals.com/media-centre/subscribe/ .

Wanted - Website Manager and Assistants

HOPE requires the voluntary services of a Website Manager and several assistants to ensure that our website is kept up to date with material from the office, various committees and project working groups.

Ideally, we would prefer that the Website Manager lived locally - that is, in the Toowoomba region, but assistants would be able to help remotely via email.

For further information about these available positions, please contact the office on ph 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.oprg.au .

Mutual Support Partners News

The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe

Workshops @ Home: I've now put together some of the workshops in a format of recipes and procedures so that you can do them at home. The packs contain easy to following instructions for between 8-10 homemade products per workshop. The four topics currently available are: **Natural Skin Care, Green Cleaning, Natural Hair and Body Products and Soap-Making**. Cost: \$25 each and can be purchased and downloaded from www.theshoppe.com.au or you can order through me via other methods. Here's the link to the Workshop @ Home page: http://theshoppe.com.au/?page_id=57 for more detailed information. I've also attached info and more below:

Natural Sin Care Workshop@Home:

Make your own facial skin care products using ingredients from the home and garden! Complete natural facial skin care regime (cleanser, astringent, moisturiser) using affordable, safe and environmentally friendly ingredients

Green Cleaning Workshop@Home:

Do all your cleaning with just four basic household items. Never walk down the supermarket cleaning lane again! Safe, cheap and environmentally friendly

Soap Making Workshop@Home:

Making plain soap simply and quickly. Easy to follow basic recipe with numerous variations. Transforming a bar of soap into a range of alternative soap-based products (detergent alternatives). Safe & environmentally friendly.

Natural Body & Hair Products Workshop@Home:

Natural, safe alternatives for deodorants, body powders, shampoos, hair dyes, toothpaste and foot care. All chemical free using natural ingredients (from kitchen and garden)

Price: \$25.00 each or all four workshops \$85.00

[Recycling Grants available through Keep Australia Beautiful](#)

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland is calling for grant applications from local communities in Queensland to implement local beverage container recycling projects. The Keep Australia Beautiful grants, funded by The Coca-Cola Foundation, are open to all communities across Australia and range from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for projects that will result in a measurable increase in beverage container recycling.

Applications are open to community groups, local associations, schools, small to medium enterprises and local government authorities and will be awarded to:

- projects which address the specific issue of beverage container recycling and its by-products;
- practical local solutions that can be used as examples for others and leave a legacy;
- projects that do not duplicate existing recycling activities; and
- projects that result in measurable volumes of recycled materials.

A proven ability to implement suitable projects, such as those who have participated in the Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Communities Awards - incorporating the Tidy Towns and Sustainable Cities programs, will also be taken into account. In larger communities this may mean infrastructure for events, or for special venues such as large retail centres, sporting venues or education centres. In smaller communities, it may mean assistance with transport or processing to overcome remote location or dispersed population. In 2011, The Coca-Cola Foundation provided \$170,004 for the grants program

to encourage 'away from home' recycling with a total of 23 projects, representing all states and territories. Applications for the 2012 grants funding close on Friday 15th June 2012 with successful applicants confirmed at the end of July.

Further information and to register for an application pack:

Visit: www.kabq.org.au ; or call David Curtin, Organisational Development Manager on 07 3252 2886 , email: dcurtin@kabq.org.au

Green Nomads

Australia's Grey Nomads are leading the charge in social volunteering by ditching their 'grey' tag and going GREEN instead. An initiative of Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC), a not-for-profit peak body representing community NRM volunteers in Queensland, Green Nomads is an innovative program linking travellers with environmental volunteering opportunities throughout Queensland.

"Being a Green Nomad is about having fun, meeting new friends, learning new skills and sharing your skills with the communities that you travel through" said Richard Murphy, CEO of QWaLC.

"Many Grey Nomads choose Queensland as a travel destination because of its diverse natural beauty. Green Nomads provides travellers with an opportunity to help preserve these experiences so they are there for their next visit and for the next generation" said Richard.

With many Natural Resource Management community groups struggling to tackle larger conservation projects because of limited volunteer numbers the Green Nomads program is an important link to helping these groups undertake conservation works in their local communities.

"Through the Green Nomads program, Grey Nomads have the opportunity to become an important part of the communities they travel through and also say thank you for providing such beautiful places to visit" said Richard.

The Courier Mail recently reported that *'research by the industry showed 9.3 million Australians intended to take a caravanning or camping holiday in the next two years.....and there is currently 427,000 caravans registered on the road in Australia and it's growing at 14% a year.'* (The Courier Mail Friday, March 30, 2012)

Qld Water and Land Carers, through Green Nomads, wants to partner in this forecasted growth within the travel market and maximise opportunities for community groups to seek assistance and enhance the public awareness of the fantastic work occurring by NRM Volunteers.

More information can be found on the Green Nomads website www.greennomads.com.au.

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Queensland News

[Sunshine Coast TAFE declared carbon-neutral](#)

Queensland's Sunshine Coast TAFE has become the first educational institution in Australia to be certified carbon-neutral.

[Walking and cycling benchmarking study](#)

Toowoomba Regional Council is undertaking an Active Transport Data Collection and Benchmarking study to assist with future planning of walking and cycling facilities in the Toowoomba region. As part of this process, council is inviting people to participate in an online survey to collate information on current walk and cycle related travel patterns, issues and attitudes. The information will also be used to benchmark future progress on walking and cycling improvements in our region. Council would like as many people who live or work in the Toowoomba region as possible - including those who are don't regularly cycle or walk - to complete this survey. It would be appreciated if you could complete this online survey and encourage other work colleagues and friends to participate as well. This survey will remain online until 11 May 2012.

The survey should only take 15 minutes of your time and can be accessed via surveymonkey.com. The survey is managed by Zwart Transport Planning on behalf of Toowoomba Regional Council. Please email jerryn@ztp.com.au if you have any questions or comments about the survey.

<http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/about-council/have-your-say/7223-walking-and-cycling-benchmarking-study.html>

[New commission to restore CSG confidence](#)

The Queensland Government has announced the establishment of the Gasfields Commission based in Toowoomba. The commission will work with the government to ensure the CSG industry has struck the right balance to meet the interests of landholders, local community groups and the environment. It aims to restore confidence in the CSG industry and meet the needs of the communities involved with and affected by CSG growth in Queensland.

[Go wild for Wild Mountains](#)

Wild Mountains (environmental education centre), in Rathdowney, is about helping people to reconnect with nature, so they can nurture the earth. And this month, they've teamed with Prospect Wines for a simple fundraiser. You buy wine. They get money. See? Simple. For every dozen bottles of wine purchased, you'll be helping raise \$50 for Wild Mountains. If you're already thinking about stocking up for winter, then please consider supporting Wild Mountains' efforts at <http://tinyurl.com/WMwines>. And remember to drink responsibly. If you need support with a drinking problem, phone 1800 177 833.

[Heritage Week celebrates two decades of heritage protection in Queensland](#)

A booklet celebrating 20 years of heritage protection in Queensland will be launched by the State Government during Australian Heritage Week. Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection Andrew Powell said the Living Places booklet, to be released on Thursday 19 April, was an important addition to the story of the preservation of Queensland's heritage. The booklet traces the history of Queensland's growth from the arrival of European settlers, and brings it to life through some of the significant places that tell Queensland's story—places that today enjoy the protection of the Queensland Heritage Register.

National News

[Six things to know about the value of renewables](#)

Recently a slew of misguided attacks on the merits of clean energy have exchanged petty partisanship for hard facts. Here are the top six things you really need to know.

Melbourne Water leads the way in tracking sustainable procurement

Melbourne Water has been identified as one of the best performing Victorian Government entities in regards to their tracking of sustainable procurement, winning an ECO-Buy award for their efforts on 2011. This [case study](#) gives a brief overview of the systems it has in place to track and report sustainable product purchases.

[The certainty of CSG uncertainty](#)

Two federal government programs improve the science behind coal seam gas exploration, but neither are a panacea for what the community see as a flawed and biased mining and CSG approval process.

[First ever seabed mining moratorium declared in Australia!](#)

AMCS is proud to announce that, in a nation-wide first, the Northern Territory Government has declared a moratorium on seabed exploration and mining in Territory waters!

[Cities and Flooding: A Guide to Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management for the 21st Century](#)

Urban flooding is a serious and growing development challenge. It is a global phenomenon which causes widespread devastation, economic damages and loss of human lives. The occurrence of floods is the most frequent among all natural disasters globally. In 2010 alone, 178 million people were affected by floods. The total losses in exceptional years such as 1998 and 2010 exceeded \$40 billion. [Cities and Flooding: A Guide to Integrated Urban Flood Risk Management for the 21st Century](#) provides forward-looking operational assistance to policy makers and technical specialists in the rapidly expanding cities and towns of the developing world on how best to manage the risk of floods. It takes a strategic approach, in which appropriate risk management measures are assessed, selected and integrated in a process that both informs and involves the full range of stakeholders.

[Public comments - Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan](#)

The Australian Government is developing a strategy to restore and manage ecological connections in the Australian landscape. The National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group has prepared a [Draft National Wildlife Corridors Plan](#). The Advisory Group is seeking public comments and consulting with key stakeholders before preparing a final plan for consideration by the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. [Have your say](#) - comments close 20 April 2012.

[City of Sydney installs energy-efficient LED street and park lighting in Australian first](#)

In an Australian first, the City of Sydney will roll-out new [energy-efficient LED street and park lighting](#), halving electricity use and carbon pollution compared to conventional lights. A consortium of General Electric and UGL were selected after a tender and will replace about 6,450 street and park lights with the new LED lights over the next three years.

Feed-in tariff reviews and reforms for electric vehicles

The ATA has been busy advocating in a number of policy reviews so far in 2012. Of particular importance to us have been reviews into both the [NSW](#) and Victoria feed-in tariff schemes with ATA again a strong advocate in these processes. We will be following progress closely throughout 2012. Working with our Electric Vehicle member branches, ATA also engaged with the [Australian Energy Market Commission](#) to strongly support the future uptake of EVs nationally with appropriate time of use tariff structures and links with direct load control and smart charging services.

World News

[Planet Under Pressure 2012: Here's the wrap](#)

The world needs a new strategy for translating sustainability knowledge into action. So far, we're not even close.

[Global warming gobbles second ice shelf](#)

New space pics show hotspot for global warming lives up to reputation, shedding 10,000 sq km of ice in just 17 years.

Resources

Web Resources:

Courtesy of Biosecurity Queensland, [the key to Environmental Weeds of Australia is now available for free online](#). This interactive identification and information resource for over 1000 invasive plants is an invaluable resource for all those involved with research, training and management of environmental weeds in Australia, especially State and local weed control officers, Bushcare and Landcare volunteers.

AGIC -- On 29 February 2012, the **Australian Green Infrastructure Council (AGIC)** launched the [IS rating scheme](#) for the design, construction and operation of Australian infrastructure, with the IS rating tool now available for use.

FOODmap -- Released in early March 2012, [FOODmap](#) is a comprehensive comparative analysis of food distribution channels for major categories within the Australian food industry, from food producer to consumer. It summarises the key features of a food industry that continues to undergo change, with significant opportunities and challenges at a category level.

[National online water planning resource](#)

A new interactive web tool is available to help people access information on the status of water planning across Australia. The *National Water Planning Report Card* provides a summary of water plans across Australia and areas for future improvement. Users can compare key elements of water planning at national, state and local levels - across 157 water plan areas. Interactive jurisdictional maps show the location of water plan areas, allowing users to drill down to local plans. The National Water Commission developed the web tool to help more effective and transparent water planning reporting. Download the National Water Planning Report Card.

Book Reviews:

[Reducing the Impacts of Development on Wildlife](#)

Practical measures to reduce the impacts of development on terrestrial wildlife, promoting ecologically sustainable development.

[Biodiversity Monitoring in Australia](#)

Critical insights into the successes and failures of biodiversity monitoring, and potential solutions.

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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