



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350
(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)
Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au
Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>
ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #5 --- 22 July 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 all,

We've received some great feedback on our last newsletter. Thank you to those who provided comments. It's wonderful to hear that you like reading the information we provide.

HOPE's next ordinary meeting is on Saturday 11 August at the Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre in Toowoomba. Everyone is welcome. For a copy of the meeting agenda, please contact the office. See you then!

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July

- 1-8 - [NAIDOC Week](#)
- 11 - [World Population Day](#)
- 27 - [Schools Tree Day](#)

Networking within a mob; the social lives of female kangaroos. Join Brisbane Branch of Wildlife Queensland, for this free presentation by UQ researcher Emily Best. Tuesday 24 July 2012, 7.30pm at Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, Milton (Brisbane, QLD).

Climate change and habitat loss: refugia for butterflies and koalas in south-east Queensland: Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network - general meeting and presentation by Dr. Christine Adams-Hosking. Saturday 28 July, 9.30am – 1pm, at the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Maleny, QLD.

27-29 – National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day

[National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day](#) combine to make Australia's biggest community tree planting and nature care event. In 2011, thousands of Australians planted more than 1 million native trees, shrubs and grasses at over 2,900 Tree Day events across the country. This year, National Tree Day is on Sunday 29 July 2012 and Schools Tree Day is on Friday 27 July 2012.

August

Saturday 4 – Third Queensland Bushfood Conference, Griffith University Brisbane

Dr Narendra Nand from the School of Biomolecular and Physical Sciences is leading the 3rd Qld Bushfood Conference. It will be held on 4th August at Griffith University, Environment Building 1 Lecture Theatre N55_0.06 between 8.30am and 4pm. For more information contact Dr Rod Drew on r.drew@griffith.edu.au

Quoll Discovery Day – Jimboomba. Join Wildlife Queensland's Quoll Seekers Network to help find out if quolls live in your area ... and what you can do to help them. See a real live quoll up close. Caddies Community Care Centre, Jimboomba. Sunday 5 August 10am - 1pm.

- 5 - [Jeans for Genes Day](#)
- 9 - [International Day for World Indigenous People](#)

Family Fun Day in Burpengary. Come and celebrate WPSQ's 50th Anniversary, hosted by Moreton Bay Branch in partnership with Moreton Bay Regional Council and its Living with the Environment programme. CREEC, Burpengary. Saturday 11 August.

- 12 - [International Youth Day](#)
- 22-28 - [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

September

- [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 1 - [National Wattle Day](#)
- [National Landcare Week](#) - TBA 5th

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September, Talking Wildlife: 50 years with Wildlife Queensland, Brisbane

Wildlife Queensland celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Talking Wildlife: 50 years with Wildlife Queensland commemorates the milestone from 7 – 8 September at the Bardon Conference Centre, Brisbane. We're thrilled to announce that the event will feature Paul Gilding as a keynote speaker, along with 20 other amazing wildlife workers, campaigners and researchers. More information is available online at www.wildlife.org.au/talkingwildlife or by contacting Event Managers, Wombat Creative on 0421 709 519. We'd love you to join our conversation online too: on Twitter @wildlifeQLD and #WQ50 and at www.facebook.com/wildlifequeensland.

- 9 - [Sustainable House Day](#)
- 9 - [National Bilby Day](#)
- 16 - [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- [Walk To Work Day](#) - TBA 17th
- 17 - [World Parks Day](#)
- 22 - [World Car-Free Day](#)

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.

Advertisement

Winter issue of WAM out NOW

A special offer to our readers – [Subscribe](#) to Wildlife Australia magazine and receive a 2012 Australian koala 1/10oz silver coin from the Perth Mint.

Devils, ratbags, crusaders and spy diversity. Don't know what we're talking about? Then you haven't seen the newest issue of Wildlife Australia Magazine. You can follow the latest chapter in the battle to help Tasmanian devil populations survive the devastation of Devil Facial Tumour Disease – just one of the intriguing stories in the latest [Winter 2012](#) issue – OUT NOW.

Advertisement



copylam
services

Ph (07) 4638 3052 Fax (07) 4638 1615
Email: services@copylam.com.au
20 Hill Street Toowoomba Q 4350

"Weeee Can Dooo It!"

The advertisement features a green and red wavy background. On the left is the Copylam Services logo, which includes a stylized 'C' made of a grid of small squares. On the right is a cartoon character of a yellow dog wearing a yellow hat and a red collar with a white 'C' on it. The character is standing on a small green patch of grass.

Office News

What a great month or so it has been for HOPE.

We've set-up a permanent Environmental Information Display at the Toowoomba College of TAFE; sent a couple of delegates to the Qld State Landcare Conference; gone LIVE with our revamped website – www.hopeaustralia.org.au; designed 4 new pull-up display banners; and we welcome Kerry Kruger as our new Website Manager.

Also, good progress is being made on updating the scope of our *Low Carbon Living starts at home* booklet and the *Helpful Hints* booklet to national publications.

On the down side, Amanda Kimball our secretary has stepped down due to work and family commitments. Thanks for your contribution, Amanda.

Upcoming meetings:

- Pathways to Sustainability Expo **working group** meeting on Monday 30 July, 7pm, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba
- Executive Meeting on Tuesday 7 August, 7pm, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba
- ENP (Environmental Networking Partnership) Meeting on Saturday 11 August, 1.30pm – 3.30pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba
- HOPE Ordinary Meeting on Saturday 11 August, 3.30pm – 5.30pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba --- Guest speaker: Cr John Gouldson, Toowoomba Regional Council, on council's water and waste policies and practices
- ENP Public Meeting – Impacts of mining on the Darling Downs, Saturday 25 August, 2pm – 4pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba --- Guest speaker: Ms Sarah Moles, Lock the Gate Alliance
 - ➔ Please show your support by attending these meetings. RSVP to HOPE office by phoning (07) 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Upcoming events where HOPE will be providing information displays:

- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (Queens Park) – Sunday, 12 August
- Toowoomba TAFE (SQIT) Open Day – Tuesday, 14 August
- U3A Seniors Expo (Humeridge Church hall) – Wednesday, 22 August
 - ➔ Offers of assistance with set-up, staffing & pack-up at these events would be appreciated; and can be directed to HOPE office by phoning (07) 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

2012 Pathways to Sustainability Expo, Saturday 13 October 2012, Toowoomba College of TAFE

Good progress is being made on the planning and preparation of this major event for HOPE - with some guest speakers, workshops, exhibitors and market stalls already registered. Volunteers are required to take responsibility for some of the key activities, as well as being available for general duties on the day, such as helping with setting-up, staffing and pull-down activities. Please phone the office on 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to volunteer.

Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote via email – are required to help us keep the machinery of operation going. We are currently looking for a secretary/minutes-taker, media officer, admin assistants; as well as on-ground helpers to assist with staffing information displays, and helping out at events. 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.

Feature Articles

The untold story: health benefits of the carbon price

By Fiona Armstrong, Climate and Health Alliance)

The birth of Australia's carbon price legislation is predictably being heralded by the chorus of criticism that has accompanied its gestation, despite the early distribution of handouts as the government attempts to buy its way through the noise.

While the "cash for you compensation" might muffle some of the clamour, it certainly can't be countered by the mysterious silence about what the carbon price is for and what it will do, other than line the pockets of Australians.

The decision by the government to label the carbon price package the 'clean energy future' represents a pragmatic reading of the political mood, as well as the need for a positive 'frame' with which to 'sell' it, but there remains an ongoing failure to describe the point of the legislation – or what it can deliver.

There is however an untold story of good news associated with this, the beginnings of our national emissions reduction strategy, which has been completely overlooked in government communications and in other commentary – and that is the improvements in public health and economic savings that accompany emissions reductions.

While there may be environmental and climate benefits implied by the term 'clean energy future', the words 'climate change' have been conspicuously absent from the conversation about the carbon price, and that's a shame, given that it is (presumably) the motivation for taking action in the first place.

For while there will indeed be climate benefits, they are far off in the future and will only be realised by a considerable ramping up of emissions reductions, far beyond a 5% by 2020 target or a \$23/tonne carbon price.

The health benefits however are available much sooner than that. Health economists have evaluated the [health benefits associated with emissions reductions in Europe, China, India and the UK](#), and the findings suggest improvements for health are available immediately - and can amount to billions of dollars saved annually from avoided ill health and productivity gains. For example, in 2010 it was predicted that cleaner air from [an emissions reduction target of 30% by 2020 in the European Union would deliver savings worth €80 billion a year](#) due to reductions in the incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (associated with air pollution from burning fossil fuels).

So, contrary to the popular myth in Australia, emissions reductions can actually offer a win-win-win - that is, improvements in population health as well as economic savings as well as a reduction in climate risk.

Much of the conversation to date about emissions reductions however has focused on 'cutting carbon pollution', for which the benefits appear to many people to be mainly available for future generations, and therefore possibly less urgent, not realising that there are substantial and important benefits available immediately for public health - that will also deliver considerable economic savings.

The European and US modeling on the health benefits of emissions reductions (from which we must extrapolate potential benefits for Australia since this work has not been done here, yet) suggests that the savings from avoided ill health can substantially offset the costs associated with cutting emissions - and may even exceed them. For example, studies of the adverse impacts on the community's health from the coal industry in the United States suggests that [industry's impost on human health outweighs the national economic benefits of the sector](#) - in other words, coal is costing the US more than it earns due to the illnesses and deaths caused by the harmful mix of particulates, chemicals and carcinogens produced by the processes of coal mining, transportation and combustion. Who would choose to continue to support such an industry?

The [costs to Australia from the coal industry are clear enough](#) in the communities that live and work in proximity to coal mines and coal fired power stations. Respiratory diseases, intellectual development delays in children, and lung cancer are all implicated. Again, we lack the thorough studies to understand the full extent of the harm being caused to Australia and Australians from this industry; a human impost the NSW, Victorian, Qld and WA governments appear all too willing ignore in the face of lucrative royalties paid to those governments from industry.

It is clear however that moving to cleaner, safer, healthier energy sources would bring significant gains for public health in Australia. This applies to the transport sector as well, where the air pollution created by the use of fossil fuels is also causing considerable harm. A (too) little known fact is that [air pollution kills more people in Australia each year than the road toll](#) - the combustion of petrol and diesel causing harmful

pollutants such ground level ozone and carbon monoxide as well as tiny particulates which not only cause respiratory disease but also enter the blood stream, causing heart attacks and stroke.

But where are our national campaigns for cleaner air?

The good news from all of this is of course that the direction in which we are tentatively moving, with our tiny step towards a low carbon future, is that it's not just about the climate - it's about us and how we can protect the environment and ourselves by adopting low carbon lifestyles, energy options and transport choices. This is an opportunity to achieve better health for ourselves, for the community, by taking advantage of our existing natural advantages of the sun and the wind, and supporting technologies and industries that are clearly in the national interest, not only in the interests of mining shareholders.

Fiona Armstrong is the founder and convenor of the national coalition of health care stakeholders, the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) - www.caha.org.au

Letter from the Editor of the Global Footprint Network

(Taken from [issue 29, July 3](#) of the Newsletter of the Global Footprint Network)

As the world's leading resource accountant, Global Footprint Network measures trends. Too often, our data reveals worrisome trends. The Ecological Footprint accounting tool, the gold standard for measuring how much [biocapacity](#) we have and how much we use, shows most countries—and the entire world—going further into ecological overshoot. It was a message we delivered repeatedly at the Rio+20 Earth Summit last month.

We see other trends, too—trends that give hope, trends that make us believe that we can still reverse the tide. Sometimes, they are hard to recognize. Amid the gloom of recent weeks, for example, anyone would have been hard-pressed to remain optimistic. Consider, first, the headlines.

Many had hoped that Rio+20 would deliver a global agreement that would make it easier for nations to navigate toward a sustainable future, but by most accounts the summit concluded with a torturous sigh. The adopted 49-page outcome document, optimistically titled “The Future We Want,” was widely disparaged. Full of reaffirmations and acknowledgments, but lacking concrete commitments to steer the global ship away from an ecological collision course, the document's failings makes clear that we must move forward and focus on the future we need—one in which leaders understand that it is in their countries' own self-interest to act boldly by incorporating ecological risk into economic and government policy.

While Rio+20 is now in the rear-view mirror, the same ecological stressors are still with us; indeed, warnings that the planet is facing a tipping point are more dire than ever. Last month, an international group of 22 scientists, including Global Footprint Network's former Senior Scientist Justin Kitzes, published a study in the journal [Nature](#) that warns of approaching—and perhaps irreversible—ecological tipping points. The paper, “Approaching a state shift in Earth's biosphere,” notes humanity's increasingly unsustainable rate of resource consumption, and warns that the planet as whole may react in the same way as do local ecosystems, undergoing swift and irreversible transitions as they cross critical thresholds.

A few weeks earlier, WWF released its [2012 Living Planet Report](#). The report's conclusions, backed by Global Footprint Network's updated [National Footprint Accounts](#), are not for the faint of heart: Global biodiversity has decreased nearly 30 percent in the last 40 years and humanity is using nature 52 percent faster than its capacity to keep up. This means that we use the equivalent of about 1.5 Earth's worth of ecological assets each year—and this demand has doubled since 1966. (We offer a roundup of the media coverage of the WWF report as this edition's feature story.)

But the news isn't all bad. Global awareness of [ecological overshoot](#) has never been greater, while recognition grows of [the limits of GDP](#) as a true indicator of prosperity in the 21st century. Ecological Footprint accounting continues to gain wide exposure and acknowledgement: More local and national governments are adopting the Footprint (see this newsletter's Footprint Briefs and our [Annual Report](#) for recent examples), more media are following it, and more people and organizations are joining us. Our work, too, is winning more world honors: In Rio, Global Footprint Network President Mathis Wackernagel and Professor Bill Rees were awarded the Kenneth E. Boulding Award and the Blue Planet Prize for their work co-creating the Ecological Footprint. (See related stories for our Rio+20 wrap-up, more on the Boulding and Blue Planet prizes, and the \$300,000 prize money that Wackernagel is donating to Global Footprint Network and [his invitation to supporters to help match the gift.](#))

While the Rio+20 outcome was a disappointment, it serves as a reminder that each nation's actions become more significant in the absence of global agreements. [What happens when an infinite-growth economy runs into a finite planet?](#) Current trends in consumption put us on bumpy path as we hit natural resource constraints, risking economic and social stability, and as we hit limits on emissions sinks, risking ecological instability. But the opportunities are wide open, too. Those who incorporate ecological risk into economic decision-making will better assure their population's long-term security in the 21st century (see our Q&A with energy industry expert Robert Rapier, also in this newsletter, for a brief discussion on our [Competitiveness 2.0](#) initiative and how energy constraints are becoming fundamental to a nation's competitiveness). The Club of Rome just celebrated the [40th anniversary of the publication](#) of "The Limits to Growth" this spring. Now Jorgen Randers, a coauthor of the original study, has published an update, [2052: A Global Forecast for the Next 40 Years](#). It reads as both a troubling report card for humanity's performance as stewards of our planet and the author's projection of the increasingly rocky paths we will navigate over the coming decades.

In the afterward, Randers makes this plea: "Please make my forecast wrong. Together we could create a much better world." Global Footprint Network believes we can, in fact, create a much better world, and offers its own reflections in [the future we want and need](#)—one in which local and national governments and business leaders make resource limits central to their decision-making. As we approach [Earth Overshoot Day](#), it is clear that tracking the supply of and demand for ecological resources and services is imperative if we are to prove Randers' forecast wrong and make the future we need a reality.

[Honors for Ecological Footprint work](#)

Our Ecological Footprint work was honored with two significant prizes last month in Rio de Janeiro. On June 17, Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation awarded the prestigious Blue Planet Prize to Mathis Wackernagel, Global Footprint Network's president, and Bill Rees, Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, in recognition of their work in developing the Ecological Footprint accounting system. Thomas Lovejoy, Professor at George Mason University, shared the award for his pioneering work in biodiversity conservation, especially in his research on how human-caused habitat fragmentation causes biodiversity loss.

[SECCCA \(South East Councils Climate Change Alliance\): local governments in the south - east responding to climate change](#)

[SECCCA](#) comprises the councils of:

- Bass Coast Shire Council
- Shire of Baw Baw
- City of Bayside
- Cardinia Shire Council
- City of Casey
- Frankston City Council
- Kingston City Council and
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance - [SECCCA](#) - is a collaboration of 8 Councils in the south east making a regional response to climate change. We carry out projects in greenhouse gas abatement, in sequestration and in adaptation on behalf of our Council members. We work through partnerships involving Councils, community, industry and state and national government. We involve as many groups within our communities as possible in responding to climate change. Some of our projects are outlined below. The work of SECCCA staff is directed by council members through their representatives on the Management Committee. We have been operating since 2004, we are based in Narre Warren and, with the seven other alliances across Victoria, we provide practical responses to climate change. SECCCA C/- City of Casey P O Box 1000 Narre Warren Vic 3805 ABN: 63 884 564 842 Greg Hunt, Executive Officer 9705 5129 or 0400 948 546 or ghunt@casey.vic.gov.au

GREENHOUSE GAS ABATEMENT *Reducing greenhouse gas emissions*

Sustainable Public Lighting

Street lighting makes up almost half of a council's emissions and comes at a large cost to ratepayers. Sustainable Public Lighting Action Plans were developed for each council with supporting business plans for their implementation.

Planet Savers Schools

This project involves energy audits, action plans, a School Environmental Tracking System to see that it works and teacher professional development programs so that the program stays in the school. In one year, 13 schools reduced emissions by more than 150 tonnes and saved an average of \$3,800 each.

Agricultural Greenhouse Emissions

This project involved energy audits, carbon offsets and planning with farmers for practices to minimise greenhouse gas production. Reducing the use of water and energy, diet additives to reduce methane burps and cutting waste leads to more efficient and productive farming.

Sustainable Homes program

What are the best house designs, fittings and appliances and how can you maximise their performance? We challenge residents to match their behaviour with the kind of houses they live in to minimise their environmental impact.

Electric Vehicle Trial

SECCCA councils are taking part in trials of plug-in vehicles to help develop the processes and infrastructure that will support the Australia-wide roll-out of this transport of the future.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION *Offsetting carbon dioxide emissions through growing native trees* **Carbon Sinks**

To offset our carbon emissions we can remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and lock it up in carbon sinks. SECCCA is planting local tree species to offset carbon that member Councils produce through their operations.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT AND ADAPTATION *Developing options for responding to climate change*

Western Port Human Settlements Impacts and Adaptations Project

Impacts such as sea level rise, storm frequency and extreme temperatures were investigated to help councils and their communities anticipate and plan for changes. Through the project we looked at the risks we might face and what can we do about them.

Climate change and the Phillip Island Penguin Parade

The penguin parade is important element of the region's tourism infrastructure. If there are impacts on the penguin colony what steps can be taken for their protection and to protect the venue and all who depend upon it.

Scenarios project

The Port of Hastings will be developed as a major port for Victoria. Research into transport logistics and the climate change implications were explored through scenarios developed through the project.

Heat-Wave Strategies for Western Port

Temperatures might be rising but we need to keep our cool. In this project, heat wave strategies were developed to help councils care for vulnerable communities.

Community engagement for climate change response

Climate change impacts will affect us all. We need to know the climate change impacts and the range of possible responses. In this project, we consider the best ways for communities.

Local Coastal Hazard Assessments

To make the best planning responses for hazards posed by climate change impacts, we need to know what those hazards are. SECCCA will work with DSE, Melbourne Water and participating councils to work out the hazards that might affect development on the Western Port coast.

Deciding for the coast

Want a building-permit for your property on the coast? How can councils decide if this is a good idea, especially when major impacts are still in the future but you plan to live there now? This project will help councils with their decision-making processes for coastal living.

Toowoomba Regional News

[A bird's eye review of the mighty Condamine](#)

A new report by an international geology expert has delivered a bird's eye review of the Darling Downs' most important river. Dr Jerry Maroulis, a former senior lecturer with the Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments in Toowoomba, has analysed aerial footage of the Condamine River from Killarney to Chinchilla. The analysis was conducted with funding from the Queensland government's National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. Condamine Alliance recorded the footage after last year's devastating floods. Dr Maroulis said the floods had contributed to widespread erosion along parts of the river, especially between Killarney and Cecil Plains. Read the full story [here](#).

Toowoomba Parkcare Group & Friends of Escarpment Parks Timetable for 2012

Park Care group volunteers meet regularly on the dates indicated below to help with bush regeneration. Friends of the Escarpment Parks also hold workshops Monday & Saturday mornings each week. Meeting times and locations may vary. It is advisable to check with the contact for further details. All participants are financial members of the **Friends of the Escarpment Parks Inc.** Subscription \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Subscriptions are due 1st July & covers the year. While in the bush volunteers wear long sleeves, trousers, solid shoes or boots and a brimmed hat.

Park Care Group	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Contact
Panorama Crescent (3rd Saturday) Laneway between 4 & 8 Panorama Cr from 1pm	21/7	18/8	15/9	20/10	17/11	--	John Gouldson 0407 157 206
Duggan Park	Coming on line shortly						
Redwood Park Each Monday, 8:30 - 12	Redwood Park Bottom car park on the down section of the Toowoomba range crossing, on the left just after the 100km sign.						Hugh Krenske 0418 748 282
Redwood Park (2nd & 4th Saturday)	14/7 28/7	11/8 25/8	8/9 22/9	13/10 27/10	10/11 24/11	--	Hugh Krenske 0418 748 282
Nielsen Park 1st Saturday, 9 - 12	7/7	4/8	1/9	6/10	3/11	1/12	Greg Lukes 0428 288 077
Echo Valley South Park 2nd to 5th Saturday, 9 - 12	Echo Valley South Park 2 nd to 5 th Saturday each month Southern end of Ramsay Street south of the Echo Valley racetrack						Greg Lukes 0428 288 077

If you would like to get involved, call the contact to confirm times and locations or simply come along Monday or Saturday (weather pending). (Application forms are available on site.)

Group bookings can also be organised for specific events. Please contact Hugh Krenske info@fep.org.au or call Hugh 0418 748 282 or 07 4635 1758

Meeting Notice:

HOPE Ordinary Meeting (quarterly)
Saturday, 11 August 2012, commencing at 3.30pm
in the Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba
(entrance through Cinema complex; plenty of roof-top parking available)

RSVP by Saturday, 10 August for catering purposes, etc.
HOPE office: ph (07) 4639 2135; email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au



USQ Environment Society!

To promote its newly founded club for the first time, USQ Environment Society held a stall at the Muster day at USQ on the 18th July 2012.

The stall was filled with information and sign up brochures, KeepCups and brochures about both Householders Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC). KeepCups were handed out for free to those who signed the pledge for a more sustainable campus. As suggested by the name, KeepCups are for reuse and a sustainable substitute for take-away cups. They sure are keepers! Brochures about HOPE and AYCC were also available, as the USQ Environment Society is about *promoting and working with* other environmental groups to help raise awareness about environmental issues.

The USQ Environment Society is going to promote the current AYCC Repower Australia campaign and campaigns from the local environmental group HOPE. The society also wants to bring **awareness**, about Toowoomba's environmental issues to the community. This society is also focusing largely on hands on activities, such as bushwalks and volunteer outings.

The response from students on the day was great! Many students and staff of USQ were eager to learn more about the USQ Environment Society, and did not hesitate to join up.

Advertisements


LIC: 69356

Your problem fixed today!

Excel Power offers a professional, reliable and fast service when you need it most!

No matter what electrical job you need doing around the home - from something small such as a power point installation to designing and installing complex electrical services - Excel Power will be able to help you. You can be rest assured that we have the experience to get the job done right for you the first time.

24 Hour Service

Call today! (07) 4638 7366


LIC: 69582

Power from the sun - we make it happen!

Want free power from the sun? Call us today and speak to one of our knowledgeable staff about grid connected solar systems.

Call us now for your site visit!

Not sure if Excel Solar is for you? Excel Solar prides themselves on being a local company that provides local jobs and an ongoing cleaner future. Even the Highfields Pioneer Village has installed one of our systems!

Call Now! (07) 4638 7344

Mark Zupp

Carpenter

No Job Too Small!

Mark Zupp
Mobile: 0417 569 849

QBSA# 1100329



Queensland News

[Cityfood Growers website](#) - *An innovation for Australian fruit tree gardeners*

The website for Australian company Cityfood Growers takes the innovative approach of integrating detailed local climate information with the climate profile of fruit trees. "Our site greatly reduces the time taken by Australian gardeners to research fruit tree cultivars suitable for their local climate and increases the range of cultivars they can grow. We provide an objective view for gardeners across major fruit tree breeders in Australia", says Cityfood Growers founder, Peter Kearney.

The website at www.cityfoodgrowers.com.au stores climate information for every state, city and town in Australia. This is combined with climate profiles of over 700 cultivars of the 40 most common fruit tree crops grown in all climate zones of Australia. The fruit tree cultivar information has been collected from a range of sources including Australian fruit tree breeders and Government agricultural bodies. Subscribers of the website can create a local climate profile in seconds and even customise it for their local micro-climates. They can search for fruit trees by simply clicking on a crop name such as Apple, or a crop group such as citrus. The site then lists all cultivars suitable for their climate and shows early, mid or late cropping varieties, dwarf and heritage varieties. Once the cultivar information is opened, cultivar breeders are displayed and can be contacted directly or the subscriber can request their local nursery acquire the cultivar for them. Subscribers can then click through to detailed information on planting, cultivating, pruning and organic treatment of common pests and diseases for every crop. "Our site already includes a vast amount of fruit tree growing content. We will be progressively adding more fruit tree crops and new cultivars of all crops as they become available on the market", says Peter Kearney.

This fruit tree information is combined with extensive content on over 150 vegetables, herbs and grains, which is also linked into the local climate profile of the subscriber. "The website provides a comprehensive online toolkit for organic gardeners, no matter what climate they live in or their level of gardening expertise. The site uniquely structures a lot of complex gardening information into easy to understand searches so that gardening questions can be answered quickly", says Peter Kearney. The website also includes community features to connect site users and an online market where subscribers can post their locally grown food.

Cityfood Growers focuses its organic gardening educational services on hobby food gardeners, communities and schools. The business commenced in 2006. The first release of its website was in mid-2008, with fruit tree content being part of its third release in 2010. The website has been designed to store climate information for any country. The company, based in Brisbane, was founded by Peter Kearney, an experienced organic and biodynamic gardener, educator and technologist. Peter Kearney also conducts organic and biodynamic gardening workshops and the business is involved in urban agriculture consulting for community organisations and schools. For more information, contact Peter Kearney, peter@cityfoodgrowers.com.au or 0401 156 532. www.cityfoodgrowers.com.au

[Queensland Conservation "Grow Local" initiative](#)

The Queensland Conservation [Grow Local initiative](#) aims to protect and promote population health across South East Queensland, meet consumer demand for fresh, locally-produced, environmentally-sustainable food, protect soil, air, water and land health in South East Queensland, improve food security (profitability and sustainability) across the region, and establish South East Queensland as a leader in local food production and consumption.

[Environment Minister awards polystyrene recycling champion](#)

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection Andrew Powell and Stephen Leeds, Network 10 General Manager, congratulate polystyrene recycling champion Leo Sines on his Minister's Award for Leadership win at Friday's Premier's Sustainability Awards.

The value of water quality

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) is compiling an overview of the various values the community places upon water quality in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin. QMDC Water and Wetlands Team Leader Paul Webb said the survey covered all the values that could be placed on water from ecological (the environmental value to aquatic ecosystems and humans), aesthetic, cultural, spiritual, recreational and economic (including primary industries, drinking and industrial).

[Read more](#)

Consultation on the Caring for our Country Initiative

The extension of Caring for our Country for a further five years has recently been announced as part of the 2012–13 Australian Government Budget. *An Outline for the Future 2013–2018* was released on 21 June 2012 and launches consultation on the design of the next five years of the Caring for our Country Initiative.

As a follow up to our state-wide meetings in Brisbane, we would like to invite regional natural resource practitioners to attend one of three regional meetings. This will enable you to put forward your ideas to help inform the design of the next five years of Caring for our Country.

The meetings will be held at:

ROCKHAMPTON Thursday 2nd August, 9:30am to 12:30pm
Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. Office, Level 1, 80 East Street

LONGREACH Tuesday 7th August, 9:30am to 12:30pm
Desert Channels Group Office - 92 Gala Street

CAIRNS Thursday 9th August, 9:30am to 12:30pm
Indigenous Coordination Centre, Level 2, 111 Grafton Street

Please choose the meeting you are able to attend and include that meeting in your RSVP. We ask you to please pass this invitation on to your regional networks for their information and action, and promote it internally within your organisation.

The meeting will focus on:

- Caring for our Country 2013–18 (including strategic objectives)
- Elements of program design and implementation.

We envisage that the consultations will allow government, community groups, traditional owners, non-government organisations, Landcare, regional bodies, environment and industry groups to put opinions forward and offer practical advice on continuing to improve Caring for our Country.

Places are limited at the meetings and we encourage you to respond as soon as possible. Please RSVP by replying to david.thompson@environment.gov.au by 24 July 2012 and if you have any questions or to notify us of any dietary requirements please email Mr Thompson.



Get on board for National Tree Day – 29 July

Planet Ark is calling on environment and community groups, councils, schools and businesses to get involved in [National Tree Day](#).

National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day will combine to become Australia's biggest community tree planting and nature care event.

[Read more](#)

National News

Energy demand goes down thanks to solar

ATA is delighted to see the [continuing trend of demand reduction](#) in the Australian National Electricity Market. A significant reason for these reductions has been the increase in solar PV and energy efficiency measures. This has come on the back of energy efficiency and feed-in tariff policies over the past three years and means that wholesale electricity prices (excluding the carbon price) are at their lowest level in over a decade. This is only a fraction of the untapped potential of energy efficiency and solar in Australia and ATA will continue to highlight the success and need for these policies.

[WWF survey](#)

We have 2,000 solar powered radios to give away and we'd love to send one to you. Portable and environmentally friendly, you can take it camping, to the beach, in the garden... wherever really! All you have to do is take 5-10 minutes to complete our supporter communications survey. Your feedback is important, please share it with us. Take the [survey](#) now!

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE)

If we want a safe, stable climate, science tells us that we need to get our emissions down – and fast. So how do we do this? Beyond Zero Emissions is the think tank that answers that question. BZE has produced a plan to power Australia reliably with 100% renewables, using technology that already exists, in just ten years. Check out the report [here](#) or visit our site at <http://beyondzeroemissions.org/>

Resource Work Cooperative, Hobart - Tasmania

Resource Work Cooperative was established in 1992 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to minimise waste, provide local employment and to do this in a way that would educate and involve the community. Today, Resource has grown into a thriving not-for-profit, worker-owned and run cooperative employing 27 people. In addition to the South Hobart Tip Shop, we run the Collectables store in Elizabeth Street, a community reusables Pick Up service, the Deconstruction service for recycling building materials, and the annual Art From Trash exhibition.

Contact the Resource Work Cooperative:

Resource Office: Phone (03) 6234 3772. Email resource@resourcetipshop.com

Resource Tip Shop: McRobies Rd, South Hobart. Phone (03) 6224 8669

Resource Collectables: 117 Elizabeth St. Phone (03) 6231 4838

Resource Pickup Service: Phone 0478 435 013. Email pickup@resourcetipshop.com

Deconstruction: Phone (03) 6234 3772. Email tim@resourcetipshop.com

Art From Trash: Phone (03) 6234 3772. Email aft@resourcetipshop.com

[Landmark report shows economic benefits of wind farms](#)

A typical 50 megawatt (MW) wind farm pays host farmers some \$250,000 per year, is constructed by workers who spend up to \$1.2 million locally, and contributes up to \$80,000 annually to community projects, according to a landmark study into the economic benefits of wind farms.

[Australians world's seventh biggest polluters: global report](#)

Australia's carbon emissions are the top contributor to its new ranking as the world's seventh biggest user and polluter of natural resources, according to a biennial report which measures the impact of human demands on nature.

Join the free ATA webinar – Going solar: things to know when choosing a PV system

The next ATA webinar on Tuesday 15th May at 11am (EST) will introduce solar PV incentives and cover what to consider before buying a solar PV system, including size of system, warranties, installation and choosing a supplier. Supported by [bankmecu](#) [Click here to register](#)

ATA partners with new liveability website

The ATA are a knowledge partner of a new website launched by LJ Hooker called liveability.com.au The liveability website helps inform consumers of ways that they can potentially save themselves money through energy and water efficiency. liveability.com.au

World News

[More than a third of threatened species in developing countries linked to consumption in developed world](#)

In [new research](#), scientists from the University of Sydney have traced the causes of biodiversity loss to their origin by creating a complex map of the world economy. The researchers cross-referenced the supply chains of more than 15,000 commodities – such as coffee, sugar, tea and fish – with the entire threatened species register from the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

[Gabon's President destroys ivory and commits to zero tolerance for wildlife crime](#)

More than 1,200 ivory tusks plus assorted ivory carvings were burned publicly as Gabon sent out a strong signal demonstrating its commitment to tackle elephant poaching and illegal wildlife trade.

[How to power a continent with wind and solar](#) Giles Parkinson

Europe's leading industrials are throwing their weight behind an ambitious plan to tap into the solar and wind resources of North Africa and the Middle East.

[UNEP, EU Committee of the Regions Sign MoU on Sustainable Cities](#)

22 June 2012: The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the EU's Committee of the Regions (CoR). The MoU seeks to strengthen the role of local and regional authorities within the policy decision-making process, and emphasizes the importance of placing sustainable cities at the heart of the global strategy on sustainable development. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), which convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. According to UNEP, the MoU defines five areas for cooperation: multilevel environmental governance; green economy and resource efficiency; climate change mitigation and adaptation; biodiversity and ecosystems management; and decentralized cooperation for development.

[UNEP Summary report from Rio+20 Summit](#)

The Rio+ 20 Summit ended on 26 June with a range of outcomes which, if embraced over the coming months and years, offer the opportunity to catalyze pathways towards a more sustainable 21st century. Heads of State and more than 190 nations gave the green light to a Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Nations agreed that such a transition could be 'an important tool' when supported by policies that encourage decent employment, social welfare and inclusion and the maintenance of the Earth's ecosystems from forests to freshwaters.

['Rio+20 has become the summit of futility'](#)

Twenty years ago, the United Nations summit held in Rio de Janeiro paved the way for landmark agreements on the climate and the environment. This year's meeting, on the other hand, has been widely criticized for its lack of vision in the face of accelerating degradation of the planet.

[A shot across the bow of self-consumption solar](#)

Sharpen your cutlasses and prepare the cannon, a proposal by network operators could halve the benefits of solar PV.

Japan shifts to renewables

Japan has approved incentives for renewable energy that could unleash billions of dollars in clean-energy investment and help the world's third-biggest economy shift away from a reliance on nuclear energy after the Fukushima disaster.

Industry Minister Yukio Edano approved the introduction of feed-in-tariffs from July 1, which means higher rates will be paid for renewable energy. The move could expand revenue from renewable generation and related equipment to more than an estimated \$30 billion by 2016.

Utilities will pay 53c per kilowatt hour for solar-generated electricity, double the tariff offered in Germany and more than three times paid in China. Wind power will be subsidized at least 29c/kwh.

(Extract from WME Magazine, July 2012)

Resources

Websites

[Two key reports highlight man's influence on climate](#)

Two new reports present a peer reviewed tour through the extreme weather and climate events of 2011. The influence of manmade global warming on the climate system continues to grow, with human fingerprints identified in more than two dozen climate "indicators" examined by an international research team.

YouTube item

David Roberts is staff writer at Grist.org. In "[Climate Change is Simple](#)" he describes the causes and effects of climate change in blunt, plain terms.

The Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Plan

The [LivingGreener website](#) provides information on programs and financial support available from the Australian Government as well as state and territory governments. The Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program is a \$40 million merit-based grants program established by the Commonwealth Government to assist industry associations and nonprofits provide practical, tailored energy efficiency information to small and medium enterprises and community organisations. For more information please visit:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/energy-efficiency-information-grants.aspx>

EEIG Program - To keep up to date with news on the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program, please email us at infogrants@climatechange.gov.au or phone us on **1800 779 638** and ask to be added to the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Stakeholders List. The department will email registered stakeholders with updated program information as it becomes available. For more information about what assistance is available under the Clean Energy Future Program please visit the [Clean Energy Future](#) website.

[Australian Native Plant Guide](#)

The Australian Native Plant Guide caters to the needs of a wide variety of groups and people making it an ideal tool for: Home & Landscape Gardeners, Farmers, Nurseries, Government Departments, Councils, Landcare Groups, Libraries, Students and anyone interested in Australian native plants.

[12 ways to slash electricity bills](#)

We're suddenly facing up to the fact that electricity bills are rising - and fast. Zip around your home with these easy tips to save cash on your energy bills.

[All about carbon tax from ACCC](#)

The ACCC promotes competition and fair trade in the market place to benefit consumers, businesses and the community. It also regulates national infrastructure services. Its primary responsibility is to ensure that individuals and businesses comply with the Commonwealth competition, fair trading and consumer protection laws.

[Top 10 tips for buying solar](#)

The Clean Energy Council has reminded consumers to take care when purchasing a solar power system, following a recent spike in interest driven by a reduction in Federal Government support from 1 July.

[Find a Green job at G-Magazine](#)

G-Online is the daily content site of the award-winning **G Magazine**, Australia's #1 consumer sustainability title. Read about the changes at G Magazine [here](#).

[Free guide to energy efficiency for business](#)

While some continue to debate the potential impact of the carbon tax and renewable energy targets, they seem to have overlooked a simple solution that addresses the need to 'decarbonise' our economy, reduce energy costs and improve business competitiveness. That solution is more efficient use of energy. A new website supported by federal and state governments provides a one-stop shop for businesses to find out how they can start saving.

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

If you do not wish to receive this e:news bulletin, please email 'unsubscribe e:news' to office@hopeaustralia.org.au