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## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #6 --- 25 August 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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) . Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

*Hello there,*

*Miriam, our regular newsletter editor, is on holidays for the next month so the August and September editions of the e:news bulletin will be prepared by the office.*

*The Office News section contains lots of important items from vacancies on the management committee and admin support; membership matters; progress report on the 2012 Pathways to Sustainability Expo; and a revised game plan for establishing a new Regional Conservation Council for the Toowoomba region.*

*There's also a good swag of interesting items from around the nation for your reading pleasure. Enjoy!*

The HOPE Office, - [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 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. 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](http://www.wildlife.org.au/talkingwildlife) or by contacting Event Managers, Wombat Creative on 0421 709 519. Join our conversation online too: on Twitter @wildlifeQLD and #WQ50 and at [www.facebook.com/wildlifequeensland](http://www.facebook.com/wildlifequeensland).

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



## Office News

What a hectic and sometimes dramatic month or so it has been for everyone at HOPE.

The office staff; management committee; Policy & Advocacy sub-committee; the Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP); and the *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* working group have all busy progressing their respective activities.

And, with the recent resignations of Vice-President and Membership Officer, coupled with our Newsletter Editor going on leave, we urgently need YOU to step up and share the workload to enable us to continue a high level of service to our membership and supporter base.,

So, if you have a few spare time, why not lend a hand. Please phone the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to volunteer your services.

Our new website is attracting plenty of positive feedback and the odd notification of an error here and there. Please do report any further anomalies; and/or suggested improvements.

The new HOPE pull-up strip banners look great and are already in use.

The new national edition of HOPE's *Low Carbon Living starts at home* booklet is now online at [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)

### Information displays report

HOPE continues to promote itself locally by providing information displays for community events such as Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (12/8), Toowoomba TAFE Open Day (14/8) and U3A Seniors Expo (22/8). If you would like to help out with future display activities please contact the office on 07 4639 2135.

### Management Committee

Earlier in the year, we lost our secretary/minutes-taker Amanda Kimball; and now Nigel Kimball has resigned as Vice-President – both stepped down due to their increased work commitments. Kerry Kruger (a local member of 10+ years) has volunteered to be Website Manager; and Clare Davies (a former HOPE Treasurer) has volunteered to be the acting minutes-taker until the AGM.

### QCC Environmental Roundtable / Qld Dept of Environment & Heritage Protection (DEHP) Ministerial Meetings (23-25 July)

HOPE sent 2 delegates to these meetings in Brisbane – Frank Ondrus and Susan Becchio.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with our sectoral colleagues; and to meet the new LNP Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Hon Andrew Powel MP.

HOPE will receive \$25k operating funding for 2012-2013 to facilitate the establishment of a Regional Conservation Council for the Toowoomba area.

### Membership Matters:

HOPE is keen to attract more active members – both locally and throughout Australia - to help us promote the HOPE Charter of sustainability, to a wider audience.

Of course, we also need more active members to assist with management committee and admin tasks, as well as to help manage projects, events and community activities.

If you feel that the time is right for you to be more active within the HOPE organisation, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or send an email to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) ; and we'll see what tasks you may be willing to undertake.

The office has also initiated a national media campaign to attract more members. (Please let us know if you see or hear story in the newspapers, TV or on the radio.

We're also keen to attract more NGOs to our network of members and supporters. If you know of any community group that might be interested in sustainability practices, please pass on their information to the office.

### Policy & advocacy committee report

Over the past 3 months or so, Nigel Kimball, Susan Becchio and Barry Miller have been reviewing the broad range of national, state and local/regional government, industry and community requests to comment on proposed policy and/or legislation matters.

The committee has identified the 3 areas to focus on and these are:

1. Statutory Regional Planning Process – Development of the Darling Downs Regional Plan
2. The CSG (Coal Seam Gas) Industry – in particular water issues, implementation of CSG regulations and enforcement; and
3. HOPE's operating policies, protocols and procedures.

A big thanks to Barry for preparing draft admin policies on Code of Conduct; Grievance; and Sexual Harassment. Barry is also updating our job descriptions for management committee and admin staff.

## **Pathways to Sustainability Expo, Saturday 13 October 2012**

The working group has been meeting weekly to advance the major aspects of the event; and to sort out marketing and promotion requirements.

Major Expo activities locked in so far are:

- Eco Art workshops for children (2 sessions) and adults/artists (1 session);
- Geckoes Wildlife Exhibits;
- Speakers Program covering sustainable housing; going solar, and Ecological Footprints
- Film excerpts and discussion sessions on Green Streeting opportunities for the Toowoomba; and Transitioning to a more resilient community
- Sustainability Competition for secondary school children
- Farmers Market
- Community information displays
- Trade exhibits; and
- Demonstrations

We're keen to expand the working group and to recruit some 30+ volunteers to help on the day of the Expo. Please call the office on 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to offer your services to the working group and/or to volunteer at the Expo.

## **Public Meeting – Impacts of Mining on the Darling Downs**

Saturday 29 September, 2pm – 4pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central, Toowoomba

Invited guest speakers include: Ms Sarah Moles, Lock the Gate Alliance; Ruth Armstrong, a grain and cotton farmer from Cecil Plains; and Rob McCreath from Friends of Felton.

*Please show your support of HOPE and its activities by attending this important meeting.*

*RSVP to HOPE office by phoning (07) 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*

*Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager; ph 07 4639 2135*

### **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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

### **Office Hours**

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

*“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children.”*

*~Native American Proverb*

## Feature Articles

### **Kids Teaching Kids Week, August 27 – 31, 2012**

*(prepared by Aaron Wood, Managing Director - Kids Teaching Kids)*

Having worked with many Landcare and environment groups over the years I know that one of the most pressing issues is succession planning and connecting with the next generation. I've also seen wonderful things happen when the knowledge of the older generation is combined with the enthusiasm of the younger generation. Finding this link between generations isn't always easy, but that's where getting involved in the Kids Teaching Kids Program may help.

More than 55,000 students in hundreds of schools around Australia have been involved in Kids Teaching Kids. Kids Teaching Kids is an education model that uses local environmental issues as a theme for learning that starts in the classroom and extends into the community. We know kids are prepared to take up the challenges of saving our environment when we give them responsibility to manage their own learning through the Kids Teaching Kids Learning Model which uses a peer teaching and learning pedagogy – teachers become facilitators and students are empowered to take responsibility for their own learning.

The Kids Teaching Kids Program has now been running for 13 years and delivered over 2600 workshops with kids teaching kids on energy, water, waste, biodiversity and climate change and this has resulted in 100's of on-ground projects with communities coming together around an issue that unites us all – the environment. All of these workshops are developed in partnership with wonderful adult mentors.

One of the most significant elements of the Kids Teaching Kids Learning Model is the role of an industry expert mentor. Our mentors work with teachers and students to bring real world learning and expertise to the workshops being developed by students. The mentor's role is very important, as they do not attempt to control the presentation, but are there to provide relevant information and valuable industry links – the students take responsibility for their presentations.

The trick is connecting great mentors with enthusiastic teachers and this can be facilitated in a number of ways. A mentor can sign up directly with Kids Teaching Kids at our website, if you're a community group you may already be linked with a school so you can encourage the school to sign up and be part of Kids Teaching Kids Week or you can choose to host a local event and invite schools to be part of it. Our aim is to encourage hundreds of schools across Australia to develop an environmental workshop to be delivered in their school and wider community during Australia Post Kids Teaching Kids Week. This is the authentic end point for the Kids Teaching Kids Learning Model and takes place across Australia from August 27 – 31 this year.

The Kids Teaching Kids Program of events offers so many ways to be involved – it is up to you, your community group or the school you link with to decide how you might like to participate.

1. If you're a school you can develop a Kids Teaching Kids Workshop on a locally relevant environmental issue and present it to your school and community.
2. If you're a school or local organisation you can go one step further and host a mini Kids Teaching Kids Conference at your school during Kids Teaching Kids Week.
3. You may have an existing student led event that is already scheduled for a date that is outside of Kids Teaching Kids Week, but providing you are willing to include a component of your event using the Kids Teaching Kids method then you can register your event.

The Kids Teaching Kids team then supports the students and teacher as to how to develop a workshop, works with the event host on how to host your event and by signing up you can access teacher replacement grants and funding to offset costs such as lunches or transport.

It doesn't matter who the host is because the Kids Teaching Kids Program is not a content provider. So we've worked with everyone from Landcare, to Rotary, Local Government, Catchment Management Authorities, Universities and many other community groups and local businesses to give their school partners the skills to take the content or project and present it to their local communities and tell more people about the wonderful work being done.

I've seen the kids that come out of the program and they are more resilient, optimistic, have a sense of future, are capable public speakers and can communicate ideas in many different forms. To be a part of the Kids Teaching Kids Program simply visit [www.kidsteachingkids.com.au](http://www.kidsteachingkids.com.au)

Toowoomba will be hosting a Kids Teaching Kids event during Kids Teaching Kids Week from August 27 – 31. If you're interested in helping out or attending please contact [vanessa@kidsteachingkids.com.au](mailto:vanessa@kidsteachingkids.com.au)

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## National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme

On 6 March 2012, DHL Supply Chain (Australia) became the first organisation approved to deliver recycling services for television and computer products, under the government's *Product Stewardship Act 2011*.

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (the Scheme) involves a combination of government regulation and industry action to reduce the amount of television and computer waste going to landfill and to increase the recovery of resources. The Scheme aims to boost the recycling rate of these products from 17 per cent in 2010 to 80 per cent by 2021-22.

DHL will provide a comprehensive solution to collect and recycle these products on behalf of television and computer product importers and local manufacturers, working in close partnership with local councils for the benefit of the community.

"This is a historic project for Australia and DHL is proud to be the first organisation approved. DHL takes its responsibility as a corporate citizen seriously. We recognise environment, climate and protection as areas where we can make important contributions. With our global GoGreen program we aim to minimise the impact of our business on the environment." said Terry Ryan, CEO South Pacific, DHL Supply Chain.

Services under DHL's solution are on track to commence in July 2012, with access to services expanding across Australia by the end of 2013.

### UPDATE ON COLLECTION CENTER LOCATIONS

On 15 May 2012, DHL Supply Chain, together with the ACT State Government launched the first free e-waste drop off points, *Drop Zone* under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. Household and small businesses within the ACT are now able to take their old or unwanted televisions, computers and associated computer products to the Mugga Lane or Mitchell Transfer Stations where they will be accepted for recycling free of charge. These are the first locations DHL have secured as a part of its 18 month roll-out; DHL will expand this service to over 100 collection sites across Australia. Close to 800 tonnes of computer and television e-waste has been accepted during the first month of operation with some 420 tonnes processed to date. The recycling of these products enables valuable resources including metals and plastics to be retained in the productive economy.

Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, Senator Don Farrell and ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, Katy Gallagher, were both present at the official launch at Mugga Lane. Stuart Clark of Sony Australia, our first customer under the Scheme, was also present. Representing DHL was Steve Thompsett (VP BD, South Pacific), Richard Phillips (VP Service Logistics & Domestic Transport, South Pacific), Peter Bruce (Senior Director - Service Parts Logistics, Australia), Mark Phillips (Account Manager - Special Projects, Service Parts Logistics) and Jan van de Graaff (Product Stewardship - Collection Channel Manager).

"The new national e-waste scheme will help play a significant role in improving the recycling rates of televisions and computers not only in the ACT but across the nation. As the scheme rolls out it will provide people with greater choice for recycling when disposing of their electronic goods, at the same time helping Australia's recycling industry to grow. It is hoped the free scheme will also alleviate ongoing issues in the ACT around illegal dumping," said Katy Gallagher, ACT Chief Minister and Minister for Territory and Municipal services.

As at the end of June 2012 DHL has been actively working with numerous Councils, waste service providers and national retailers across Australia to establish the broader networks of collection sites and services. We envisage the initial focus of activity from July will centre on establishing services in the metropolitan areas. From 2013 this will expand to regional and remote areas.

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## Toowoomba Regional News

### Schools Sustainability Forum in video

Earlier this year the Toowoomba regional Schools Sustainability Forum was held in conjunction with National Youth Week. The Forum sought to apply Youth Week themes of 'Imagine, create and inspire' toward increasing the knowledge, skills and pro-environmental values of local schools and their students. Coordination of the Forum was achieved via a partnership between the HOPE, Condamine Alliance and Queensland Murray-Darling Committee and local NGO's. There were rich opportunities within the Forum for the exchange of ideas between existing school ecological sustainability projects. Check out the videos from the day: [Teaser](#), [Full Presentation](#), and [Slide Show](#).

### Progress Report on establishment of new Regional Conservation Council for Toowoomba region

HOPE was recently advised by Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) that the Qld Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) now requires us to transition our Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP) initiative into a stand-alone Regional Conservation Council (RCC) entity by the end of the 2012-2013 financial year.

Accordingly, a special meeting of ENP members and interested stakeholders has been convened for Monday 3 September, 10am at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba, to form a steering committee to determine the process, requirements and timeline to achieve the desired RCC outcome.

HOPE will be providing the secretariat support and funding in this matter.

Please direct all enquiries on the formation of this new Conservation Council for the Toowoomba region to the HOPE office by phoning 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

### Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times can be arranged through the office.

***"The order of creation demands that a priority be given to those human activities that do not cause irreversible damage to nature, but which instead are woven into the social, cultural, and religious fabric of the different communities. In this way, a sober balance is achieved between consumption and the sustainability of resources."***

*Pope Benedict XVI, Message to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization for the Celebration of World Food Day, October 16, 2006.*

### Advertisements



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## Queensland News

### Industry guides to help improve your eco-efficiency

Ever wish there was someone who understood your business and could provide relevant information about how and what you could do to become more eco-efficient?

That's where we can help. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has developed industry sector guides for many businesses in Queensland.

Covering a range of different industries, including manufacturing, holiday accommodation and butchers, the guides provide strategies to help you improve your business's eco-efficiency and bring about real financial savings.

Find an [industry guide for your sector](#), or for a quick overview, read the [checklist for your business](#).

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### Nomads are no longer Grey – they are Green!

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](http://www.greennomads.com.au).

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### Video tribute to our farmers

All across the Condamine catchment farmers are working hard to look after our agricultural land. As a tribute to these dedicated farming families, the Sustainable Agriculture Program has created a three part video series called Voices of the Condamine. The series captures the thoughts and reflections of local farmers on family, community, stewardship and the future. The video tribute was produced by first year journalist and ABC Heywire winner Melody Pedler who grew up on a property at Jondaryan. Melody travelled around the catchment talking to farmers about life on the land and recording their stories. The voice-over was provided by ABC rural journalist Arlie Felton-Taylor. [Read the full story here](#)

### Wildlife Friendly Roads?

We are all aware of the depressing reality of rising figures of wildlife killed on our roads, but generally have felt pretty useless about resolving this issue. Some wonderful volunteers, such as Wildcare, go out at all hours of the day or night to collect injured wildlife and transport them to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital or a local vet for treatment and then take them home for the long rehabilitation, if that is possible. There are various signs beside roads advising us that wildlife or koalas cross here and urge us to drive more slowly, but really these do little to protect our unique wildlife as they struggle to survive and live in the ever increasing suburban jungle. [However other people have been looking for solutions to this problem....](#)

## National News

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

**Re: The Adelaide Hills Sustainable Living Festival - Proposal letter**

We are writing to you as the newly-formed Organising Committee for 'The Adelaide Hills Sustainable Living Festival' - Sam Manger, Anita Venzke, Elizabeth Bromilow, Louise Roberts, Wil Heidt, Bron McNab and Sally Shaw.

It is clear to us that there is no shortage of interesting, inspiring individuals and groups in Adelaide and the Adelaide Hills. However, when we all work separately, our effect is not as substantial as it could be if we all collaborated.

We propose staging an event in early 2013 that will be organised by the collaborative efforts of community groups and individuals in Adelaide and the Hills.

Essentially this is a great opportunity for all community groups and individuals to pool resources and cooperatively host a successful event. The festival will aim to be 3 days and nights of events that range from films and forums to farm tours and cooking classes in the Adelaide Hills based on sustainable living topics. It will also utilise pre-existing local events. If there is significant support and help from volunteers then the festival can be lengthened to more than 3 days and nights. There have already been a number of excellent suggestions made for events, and whilst the committee and volunteers are being assembled we are open minded to any further suggestions and ideas.

We hope this festival will become an annual event and an opportunity for us all to come together and work collectively as a community and build partnerships. It also aims to bring out local knowledge and foster more practical, intelligent and sustainable ways of living.

The structure of the organising committee will be essentially anyone who wants to help. We are aiming for an organising committee of up to 12 people and additional volunteers to help. Hopefully there will be representation and input from multiple local community and professional groups.

**No single organisation will be leading the committee or have total credit for its production.** If individuals decide to participate in the committee or a single event, then they represent themselves. However if they have the support of their community or professional group, then this can be acknowledged during the festival in various formats. Therefore it is very important to contact other committees and ask if they have anyone who wishes to get involved. The more we utilise our networks and work together, the greater the festival's success.

We welcome anyone who wishes to assist in any way in the production of the festival. We are happy to find a small or large role that fits with peoples' various levels of available time and desired commitment. Those interested in being on the organising committee should be prepared to meet every 4-8 weeks and assist with the rest of the committee on general management. Those wishing to assist with only a single event or single component of the festival (e.g. marketing, sponsorship) can help in this role also.

So what now?

Over the next month we intend to bring together anyone who is interested in assisting with the festival, including organising committee members and numerous additional volunteers to start the formal planning.

Please contact Sam Manger at [sam.manger@uqconnect.edu.au](mailto:sam.manger@uqconnect.edu.au), or alternatively on 0403 235 349 if you wish to know more or get involved. The only prerequisite is passion to strengthen our already commendable community.

Please join us for this great opportunity.

Kind regards,

The Organising Committee, - Adelaide Hills Sustainable Living Festival

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The Editor,

**Re: The lot of the reformer**

*Anyone engaged in the progressive movement is perennially doomed to bouts of frustration. Not for us John Howard's limited view about life's aim is to be 'relaxed and comfortable'.*

*If you have a vision for a better future, it is hard to be relaxed about what we have currently. What do we want? The broad sunlit uplands. When do we want them? NOW!!*

*We do what we do because we believe that a socially just, economically fair and sustainable environment is possible. Not only that, it's important and it has to happen. But how do we deal with the challenges, the frustrations and the too-frequent steps backward? We look after each other – that's how. The best antidote to burn-out is recharging, re-energising and fun.*

*Members of the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) get together every two years to plot and plan, share strategies and recognise triumphs. We sit down with leading thinkers, listen to policy developers, hear of the good things our colleagues are doing and pinch the best ideas that we can implement in our own work. In between that, we laugh, eat and drink together and return to our settings knowing that we are not the only ones thinking as we do, that we are not alone in carrying out sometimes thankless tasks and when it seems hard, we know who to ring and receive some wise counsel.*

*The conference Next Steps 2012 will be held in Melbourne from the 30th September to the 3rd October 2012. Details are at <http://www.vaee.vic.edu.au/index.php/aaee2012nextsteps>*

Greg Hunt - SECCCA

C/- City of Casey, P O Box 1000, Narre Warren Vic 3805

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### Youth Decide - a campaign by the Australian Youth Climate Coalition

This September the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, a nation wide youth organisation aiming to create a generation wide movement to solve the climate crisis, is holding a National Youth Referendum called **Youth Decide**. The vote will give young people the chance to have a say on how much of Australia's future electricity will come from coal, gas, wind or sun.

Youth Decide will be run between September 10th-17th, and there are hundreds of events being held around Australia including barbeque's, dances, cake stalls, lunchtime voting booths in the schoolyard and more. The aim is to **get young people to vote for their future**.



AYCC and COOLmob urge you to involve your school in this fun and exciting event. If you are a teacher, parent or school kid and want to host a voting event, contact Joel Dignam on 0402 182 389 or email [joel@aycc.org.au](mailto:joel@aycc.org.au) to find out more information. You can also register an event online at [Youth Decide](http://Youth Decide).

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### EVENT: National Landcare Conference, Sydney 3-5 September 2012

The conference [program](#) has been released for the [National Landcare Conference](#) to be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3 - 5 September 2012.

This year's conference will take place in Landcare Week and will be an exciting opportunity to bring together people that are interested in creating sustainable landscapes for the 21st century.

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### Over 750,000 homes in Australia now have rooftop solar

That's 1.7GW of installed capacity and counting, with new data suggesting small-scale solar will rise to over 2.3 GW in around 12 months time.

### Solar power has bright future - CSIRO

THE myth that solar power is unreliable because clouds sometimes cover the sun has been dispelled by a world-first report produced by the CSIRO.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/solar-power-has-bright-future--csiro-20120615-20dig.html>

**Date Claimer: Registration has opened for [ANPC's 9th National Conference](#) to be held 29 October – 2 November 2012 in Canberra.**

The **overall conference theme** is plant conservation in Australia, achievement and future directions. The conference will be relevant for the full range of people and groups involved in plant conservation in Australia and will provide a significant networking opportunity for participants.

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**Sustainable living showcased in Casey**

In an Australian-first project, the City of Casey has opened an environmentally-friendly, interactive display home in a thriving residential community in Clyde North.

Selandra Community Place is an eight-star, zero energy display home and educational hub featuring a range of interactive displays, DVD animations and 'take-home' information cards so visitors can learn how to be more efficient with energy, waste and water and improve their overall wellbeing.

Using the latest technology and building practices the house assists the community to think sustainably when building their new homes and through their everyday actions. It was developed through a partnership between the Council, Stockland, Henley Properties Group and the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance.

A comprehensive range of community and sustainability programs and services are available including a small business centre and a business coffee club; sport and wellbeing activities; workshops on sustainable gardening, interior design and DIY projects; and opportunities to connect with the community at Sunday brunches, coffee mornings and community events.

For more information, visit [www.selandracommunityplace.com.au](http://www.selandracommunityplace.com.au).

Cassie Evans, Senior Communications Advisor  
City of Casey , PO Box 1000, Narre Warren, 3805  
T: 03 9705 5329, M: 0407 705 594, F: 03 9705 5327  
E: [cevens@casey.vic.gov.au](mailto:cevens@casey.vic.gov.au) , W: [www.casey.vic.gov.au](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au)

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**News from Community Recycling Network of Australia**

- The Victorian Greens have released a report 'Turning Rubbish Into Money' to promote the benefits of a container deposit scheme. They claim it would: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 456,000 tonnes per year; save water equivalent to the use of 4,700 homes; create up to 400 new jobs; encourage increased recycling in the commercial sector and be cheaper than the cost of the current curbside recycling model.
- The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme is going to begin soon: [www.environment.gov.au/ewaste](http://www.environment.gov.au/ewaste).
- Voluntary Product Stewardship: a model being developed for encouraging organisations to manage their products sustainably without regulation. A consultation paper is being prepared: [www.environment.gov.au/productXstewardship](http://www.environment.gov.au/productXstewardship).
- Victorian Waste Policy: call for submissions: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/waste>.
- Upcycling: Bower Reuse and Repair Co-op in Marrickville, Sydney is teaching carpentry and upholstery skills as a way to provide skills and pathways while salvaging furniture from the waste stream.
- Queensland – Recycling Infrastructure Grants: the Waste Avoidance and Resource Efficiency fund is offering grants between \$5,000 and \$5million over the next four years for projects to adopt better resource management. Priority is for transfer stations and recycling centres, waste and recycling industry initiatives, materials recovery projects: [http://derm.qld.gov.au/environmental\\_management/waste/infrastructure-program.html](http://derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste/infrastructure-program.html).
- Tackling e-waste: Social Firms Australia and Greenfix Environmental are developing a national e-waste recycling network of social firms. These will employ people with mental illness or disability with equitable pay and opportunities. They are calling for interest from disability enterprises or employment services: [susie@socialfirms.org.au](mailto:susie@socialfirms.org.au) [kevin@greenfix.com.au](mailto:kevin@greenfix.com.au).
- Queensland University of Technology Business School is asking for participants for a survey about Community Recycling Enterprises. Survey link: <http://survey.qut.edu.au/survey/172908/19f3/> .

Further details of all stories can be found at: [www.communityrecycling.com.au](http://www.communityrecycling.com.au).

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## 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. <http://www.livinggreener.gov.au/home>

The Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program is a \$40 million merit-based grants program established by the Commonwealth Government to assist industry associations and non profits 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>

To keep up to date with news on the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program, please email us at [info@climatechange.gov.au](mailto:info@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: <http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/>

## Celebrating 30 years



Conservation Volunteers Australia is celebrating its 30th anniversary, revealing a list of its top 30 achievements since its humble beginnings in 1982.

Relying on dedicated volunteer teams from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences, the organisation manages community conservation programs covering all Australian states and territories, mobilising communities to act as a major force for environmental good.

[Read more](#)

## GM-free labels for Australia

Many food items in Australia now carry GM-free or non-GM labels and logos. Please look out for these products and buy them to support this fast growing and safe option. Please tell us what's available in your local store and we'll publicise them on the website and social media. Email <mailto:info@geneethics.org> or phone toll-free on 1300 133 868.

**The Climate Commission** was established in 2011 to speak directly to the community about climate change; what it is, why it's happening, what it means and what we can do about it. The Commissioners have been travelling all over Australia, visiting regional communities as well as major cities, talking to regular Australians about the science, the effects and the need for action.

Recent updates to our [website](#), contains some simple [science basics](#) about climate change, and a list of trustworthy sources where you can find further information. You can also find all our [published reports](#) which have been used by governments, academics, industry leaders and communities to help guide their approach to the future. There are even [videos](#) to view.



## World News

### Ten of the most polluted places on the planet

Human activity can leave a toxic toll on the planet. And some of the worst affected species are humans. Here's ABC Environment's list of some places you don't want to visit any time soon.

<http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2012/07/23/3549975.htm>

### Low Carbon Future Cities Project

Increasing urbanisation and climate change are two of the great challenges of the 21st century. In response, the **Low Carbon Future Cities (LCFC) project** was initiated to develop a low carbon, adaptation and circular economy strategy to address the large mitigation potential in urban areas by and through engaging cities and stakeholders in both China and Germany in an integrative approach. The project will scientifically explore the Low Carbon Future City concept in two case studies: the German region of Düsseldorf+ and the Chinese city of Wuxi.

### The ARIES Collection

The ARIES team have put together a selection of online videos from around the world to educate, engage, inspire, perplex, enlighten, delight and stimulate debate about all things to do with sustainable development.

[www.aries.mq.edu.au/videos](http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/videos)

### Into Unknown Territory: The limits to adaptation and reality of loss and damage from climate impacts

The joint report **Into Unknown Territory: The limits to adaptation and reality of loss and damage from climate impacts** warns that if global warming continues at its current pace, the planet will increasingly suffer irreversible damages to its biodiversity, natural resources and substantial losses of human life and territory. The report concludes that adaptation to climate change alone will no longer suffice.

[www.careclimatechange.org/files/CARE\\_docs/2012\\_Into%20Unknown%20Territory\\_Joint%20Report.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/CARE_docs/2012_Into%20Unknown%20Territory_Joint%20Report.pdf)

### Gambling with the Future of the Planet

The report explains how governments will need to take new measures to deal with extreme impacts and prepare for losses due to climate change. Unless substantial efforts are taken immediately to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage climate resilient development, global warming could exceed 4 and even 6°C. The costs will place a massive burden even on industrialized countries, whilst massively increasing poverty and reversing development gains in poorer regions. The figures are staggering, conservative estimates show that we could risk around 2 trillion USD in economic and non-economic impacts worldwide by the year 2060 combined with potentially irreversible losses to ecosystems and biodiversity.

[www.careclimatechange.org/files/advocacy/20120324\\_Loss%20%20Damage\\_OpEd\\_Kit%20Vaughan.pdf](http://www.careclimatechange.org/files/advocacy/20120324_Loss%20%20Damage_OpEd_Kit%20Vaughan.pdf).

### Partners sought for Youth Leading the World 2012

OzGREEN is looking for local, regional, national and global partners for **Youth Leading the World 2012**. Imagine thousands of young people coming together in multiple locations simultaneously, to focus their attention on global sustainability challenges such as energy, food, climate change and water and plan together how they can create fairer futures. Youth Leading the World (YLTW) is a bold initiative from OzGREEN that seeks to accelerate the shift to fair futures by building a movement of inspired leaders.

### GM stalled as the world rejects engineered crops and foods

The GM industry again fudged its figures in the ISAAA annual report for 2011. They claimed an increase in the global GM crops area of around 3%. The USA alone still grows 45% of all GM crops. But, for example, BASF and Monsanto dropped their GM research and market programs in Europe, China rejected GM rice and India banned GM eggplant. [Read More >>](http://www.geneethics.org/enews/display/62) (<http://www.geneethics.org/enews/display/62>)

## Resources

### New not-for-profit reform agenda Publication

The Government has released a new publication titled, [Strength, Innovation and Growth: the future of the not-for-profit sector](#).

It sets out key features of the reforms and provides information on how to stay up to date with future developments.

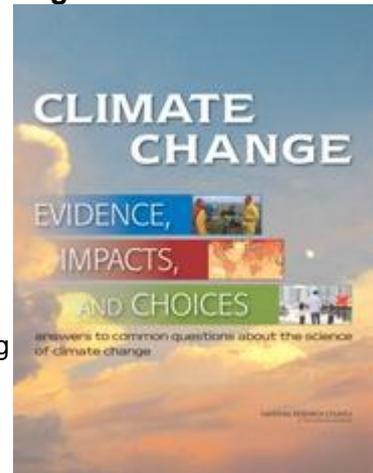
### Beyond Zero Emissions

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/>

### New Booklet, Video Answer Common Questions about Climate Change

The National Research Council has released a new booklet and video designed to help the public gain a better understanding of what is known about climate change. The new resources are based on a number of independent reports from the National Research Council that represent the consensus of experts who have reviewed hundreds of studies describing many years of accumulating evidence.

A [36-page booklet](#) answers commonly asked questions about the science of climate change in three parts. The booklet lays out the evidence of climate change being observed around the world, summarizes projections of future climate changes and impacts expected in this century and beyond, and examines how science can help inform choices about managing and reducing the risks posed by climate change. The booklet is downloadable from the [Climate Change at the Academies website](#). Later this summer, hard copies will be available in sets of two from the National Academies Press (free, except for costs of shipping and handling). An announcement will be made when this becomes available.



A new [video](#), **Climate Change: Lines of Evidence**, follows Part 1 of the booklet. It explains the lines of evidence that have built the current scientific consensus about climate change and its causes. The video is available on YouTube in full length (26 minutes) and also in shorter pieces, segmented by the questions being addressed.

**Remember, you CAN make a difference!**

**Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water**

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