



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #8 --- 21 October 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 . Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Hi,

What a great month it's been! The public meeting about "Mining Impacts on the Darling Downs at the end of September was very well attended. The speakers were excellent and the public was very receptive and engaging. We also held the Pathways to Sustainability Expo on 13 October. A big thanks to everyone that participated, we had a great day. You will find the reports about the events in the Office News section. There is also a large number of resources this time - all different kinds from funding opportunities to climate videos and book reviews.

Lastly, I wanted to say thank you to the office for preparing the August and September newsletters.

Miriam Sharp, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November

- 6 - [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)
- 10 – HOPE Annual General Meeting, followed by 1st Ordinary Meeting of new committee
- 12-18 - [National Recycling Week](#)
- 14 – Environmental Law Workshops USQ, 9am-3pm. More info from www.edo.org.au/edoqld
- 21 - [World Fisheries Day](#)

December

- 3 - [International Day of People with Disability](#)
- 5 - [International Volunteer Day](#)
- [Coastcare Week](#) - TBA
- 10 - [Human Rights Day](#)
- 11 - [International Mountain Day](#)



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.

Office News

Office staff, committee members and volunteers have channelled their energies into preparations for the public meeting on “Mining Impacts on the Darling Downs” (29/9); and the Pathways to Sustainability Expo (13/10). Reports on both these events are detailed below.

Along with this, work also continues on establishing a Regional Conservation Council for the Toowoomba area (see report below); general outreach activities; and a national campaign to attract membership to HOPE.

Our annual general meeting is set down for Saturday 10 November and we're keen to recruit new people to committee and admin support positions. So, please consider stepping up your level of involvement in HOPE and nominate for one of these positions.

Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager; ph 07 4639 2135

Update on establishing Regional Conservation Council for Toowoomba area

The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) has advised HOPE that the Qld Dept of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) have determined “that as HOPE is a national organisation with state-wide affiliation to both QCC and QWALC (Queensland Water and Land Carers) we are not eligible to manage the Regional Conservation Council in our own right”. Instead, we are now obliged to form an interim working group to establish a new and independent Conservation Council for the Toowoomba region. Once the “specifics” have been determined, a consultant will be engaged to help in the RCC establishment process. A more detailed report on this undertaking will be available at the HOPE AGM on 10 November 2012.

Report on public meeting - Impacts of Mining on the Darling Downs Saturday, 29 September)

Wow! What a great turn out for the September public meeting. 44 people were on hand to hear from five (5) speakers raising concerns about mining impacts on lifestyles; food production; pollution of water and air; as well as adverse impacts on the mental and physical health and well-being of residents.

A big thanks to our guest speakers - Paul Cleary (author of Mine-Field), Sarah Moles (Lock the Gate Alliance), Rob McCreath (Friends of Felton), Ruth Armstrong (ecologist and farmer from Cecil Plains) and Dr John Standley (agricultural scientist) – who gave freely of their time and expertise. A detailed report and audio/visual presentation will be available soon on our website at www.hopeaustralia.org.au and our YouTube posting at <http://www.youtube.com/user/HOPEAUSTRALIAFILMS>



Report on Pathways to Sustainability Expo, Saturday 13 October 2012



After many months of planning and preparation, the big day of our Pathways to Sustainability Expo finally arrived. The weather was fantastic. The volunteers had done a great job of setting up the site; and all of the guest speakers, exhibitors and special attractions were assembled and ready for action.

A big thanks to our special guests – Jerry Coleby-Williams (our patron and presenter on Gardening Australia); Hon John McVeigh MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - and Member for Toowoomba South; Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North representing the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; and Cr Sue Englart (Toowoomba Regional Council) – for making themselves available for the official opening of the Expo.

Thanks also to those people who volunteered their services to the Speakers Program and the *Green Street opportunities for your community* program – Trevor Berrill, Andy Le Brocque (USQ), Helen Lewis (inside-Outside Management), Terry Davis (Excel Solar), Howard Nielsen (NAC Consulting), Jerry Coleby-Williams, Peter Kearney (Cityfood Growers), Andrew Nicholson and Cath Leask.

Thanks to the PtoS Expo working group – especially Toni Salmond, Kate Reardon-Smith and Ian Barralet for your input and support. Thanks to Jeff Poole (media officer); Andrew Nicholson (audio/visual recording); and Miriam Sharp (photography). Lastly, thanks to those volunteers who helped with transporting goods to and from the event, setting up tents, tables & chairs, 3 activity rooms, etc. – Ian Whan, Joy van der Wyk, Wayne Ole, Andrew Nicholson, Barry Miller, Toni Salmond & family, Rick Sharp, Kate Reardon-Smith, Heike & Christine from USQ, Kerry-Lee Kilkenny from SQIT and Gordon Lee.

Your collective contributions to the staging of this year's Pathways to Sustainability Expo were much appreciated.

I also wish to thank our financial sponsors – Excel Solar, bankmecu and Condamine Alliance. Thanks also to Toowoomba Regional Council for grant monies from the *Community Cultural & Art Support Fund*.

On the downside however, up to 12 exhibitors either withdrew in the week leading up to the event or just didn't turn up on the day. This left the farmers market area looking rather bare.

We were obliged to cancel the schools sustainability competition due to a lack of entries - very surprising, considering the high level of interest expressed at our Schools Sustainability Forum held back in April 2012. And I guess the most disappointing aspect of all was that the anticipated large crowd just didn't eventuate! Why, we're not quite sure. The debriefing meeting held on Wednesday 17 October highlighted a number of possible improvements and program variations to make the next event more accessible to the public and less costly to stage.

A more detailed report will be tabled at HOPE's AGM on 10 November 2012; and the full audio/visual presentation will be available soon on our website at www.hopeaustralia.org.au and our YouTube posting at <http://www.youtube.com/user/HOPEAUSTRALIAFILMS>



Feature Articles

Help us protect Australia's environment

Australia is the home of unique wildlife and spectacular scenery. Our country also holds abundant agriculture industries, supporting farmers and their families and our national economy. This wonderful environment is one well worth preserving.

Exotic pests and diseases can cause significant harm to people, animals, plants and other aspects of our environment and economy.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) manages Australia's biosecurity system. Each year DAFF intercepts tens of thousands of pests and hundreds of kilograms of non-permitted products. In 2011-12, DAFF cleared over 15 million international passengers, seized over 380,000 items and cleared 164 million international mail articles.

DAFF also works with neighboring countries, importers and exporters to safeguard our country. We also provide specialised export inspection, auditing and verification.

DAFF is also in the midst of reviewing the century old *Quarantine Act 1908* to ensure it is in line with the current environment and meets our evolving needs.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility and we ask Australians to help us.

When returning from overseas please be aware there are restrictions on bringing back animal and plant products—check out [What Can't I Take Into Australia](#) online.

If you spot anything unusual please let us know—call **1800 675 888** for livestock, birds and aquatic animal disease symptoms or **1800 084 881** for plants and crops.

If you see something that could have entered Australia with imported goods and you think it may be a quarantine concern, call **1800 020 504**.

Toowoomba Regional News

7SD Solar Power Plant

Excel Solar Pty Ltd is delighted to have received national recognition for its Toowoomba Solar Farm located at the old 7SD site off Alderley St, Toowoomba.

The Solar Farm project involved the planning, design, implementation, commission and delivery of a 60kW fully monitored solar plant.

The project's scope was to provide an economically viable working commercial solar system that was critical to Toowoomba, for display and educational purposes.

For further information about Excel Solar and/or to arrange an inspection of the Solar Farm, contact the office on 4638 7344 or email office@excelsolar.com.au.



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Advertisement

Uniting Care Community Worm Sale

Composting Worms Quality mix of Red Wigglers & African Night Crawlers contains a blend of capsules (eggs), babies, juveniles and adults. 1000 compost worms to start worm towers or garden worm trays. 2000 compost worms is the minimum amount to start a worm farm.

- 1000 compost worms (approx. 250grams) \$25
- 2000 compost worms (approx. 500grams) \$40
- 4000 compost worms (approx. 1kg) \$80

Please contact Scott Smith on 0403 332 804 / bssmith63@hotmail.com

Jump online for Action on the Ground

A new Sustainable Agriculture program is taking research from the lab to the paddock to identify ways to boost farm productivity in the Condamine catchment. A dedicated web area has been set up to help you stay up to date on each trial site, management options, events and other useful resources and advice from industry professionals. The Better Soil, Better Productivity initiative is supported by funding from the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Futures — Action on the Ground Program. Project specialists are working with participating farmers to develop and apply new approaches to improve soil carbon on a demonstration site. Condamine Alliance is working with industry specialists to trial ways to increase soil carbon in cropping and grazing land in the Condamine catchment. The project will see nine trial sites in three different localities across the Darling Down.

<http://www.condaminealliance.com.au/action-on-the-ground-about-the-project>

Grow Me Instead Launches for the Darling Downs



SPRINGS Garden World (Toowoomba) provided the perfect backdrop for the official launch of the new Grow Me Instead website. A collaborative effort between the Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland and regional reference groups, it is designed to manage the ongoing threat of invasive plants. Co-ordinator Barry Naylor said the website now incorporated new bioregions including the Darling Downs and south-west. "Grow Me Instead identifies 30 invasive urban plants for both the Darling Downs and south-west regions," Mr Naylor said. "It also suggests at least five superior alternatives specific to that bioregion. The key message is about taking personal responsibility for appropriate non-invasive plant choice."

www.growmeinstead.com.au

National News



Sustainability made simple with Ecochick.com

Ecochick.com is a new environmental blog and lifestyle website, providing a resource and inspiration for people to reduce their environmental footprint through simple, sustainable lifestyle changes. Founded by environmental campaigner Lara Shannon, **Ecochick.com** features blogs, eco product reviews and offers, environmental news and more, helping individuals to reduce their impact on the environment.

In her blog, Lara tackles key environmental issues in an easy to understand manner. Discussing issues from natural fertility to home energy and sustainability tips, eating organic to natural skincare and celebrity interviews, Lara's discussions help show people that it is easy to be green. Readers also have the chance to win weekly eco product prizes through product offers and competitions, whilst the product reviews help people choose the best of the ever increasing range of environmentally friendly products available, based on Lara's unbiased personal use and experience.

An Eco Directory Listing section also helps readers find suppliers and businesses offering green products and services across a wide range of categories including cosmetics, skincare, homewares, house & garden, petcare, toys, arts & crafts and more. A passionate environmental campaigner, Lara has worked with a number of environmental organisations in Australia and the UK for over 15 years, including Keep Australia Beautiful, Planet Ark, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and many others.

Lara has also recently started hosting the online TV show **Eco TV**, which airs on the Eyeworld TV Network or at www.ecotv.com.au. The weekly 15 minute show provides viewers with the latest environmental news headlines, sustainable lifestyle tips and interviews with industry thought leaders and eco-minded celebrities.

On both **Eco TV and Ecochick.com**, Lara raises debate and discussions on topical environmental issues that affect all Australians, in an easy to understand and solution based way.

For the latest blogs, product reviews and offers visit www.ecochick.com

[DIY smart home: How households can save \\$100s on energy bills](#)

Don't wait around for the smart revolution... Report says households can save hundreds on energy use right now, through mostly simple and cheap measures. Report and fact sheet for your state available at <http://www.climateworksaustralia.com/publications.html>

Seafarers Festival – Beach-nesting Birds Stall

The Beach-nesting Birds Project will be running a stall at the Seafarers Multicultural Festival to educate the wider community and raise awareness of the plight of the threatened Hooded Plover. We will be running a free kid's craft activity with free giveaways for kids and adults. The stall will be running from 8am to 9pm and we are looking for volunteers to assist for parts of the day and in setting up and taking down the stall.

When: Saturday 1 December 2012 **Where:** Lakes Entrance, Victoria

If you are able to help even for just an hour or two please email BNB Project Officer Tanya Pyk on tanya.pyk@birdlife.org.au

Healthy Waterways Launch the [plastic pollution revolution!](#)

The Plastic Pollution Revolution aims to create a movement of people who are committed to reducing their plastic footprint. Healthy Waterways is asking you to pledge an action to reduce your plastic footprint through their [facebook](#) page. Once you have made your pledge, you will go in the draw to win one of six family holidays. Natrasha turtle is now available to book for your next community event, meeting or awareness-raising campaign. [Read more](#)

[Coca-Cola triples support for Keep Australia Beautiful and beverage container recycling grants](#)

Coca-Cola has provided a significant increase in grant funding for 2012 projects, with \$500,000 made available to community groups, councils and schools across Australia for local community projects.

World News

[Australian 'mega mine' plan threatens global emissions target](#)

'Unprecedented' increase in the scale of Australian mining would nullify an internationally agreed goal, Greenpeace warns. Plans to open up a new Australian "coal export rush" would turn a single Queensland region into the seventh largest contributor of carbon dioxide emissions on the planet, undermining international efforts to keep global warming below 2C, a new report has warned.



A coal train awaits loading. Photograph: Ian Waldie/Getty Images



Zero Waste International Alliance – www.zwia.org

Working towards a world without waste through public education and practical application of Zero Waste principles.

The Zero Waste International Alliance has been established to promote positive alternatives to landfill and incineration and to raise community awareness of the social and economic benefits to be gained when waste is regarded as a resource base upon which can be built both employment and business opportunity. The simple technology and methods required to achieve Zero Waste exist in every community around the world. The Zero Waste International Alliance can connect you to leaders in the field who can provide your community with the models, the projects, the people and the means to help you develop Zero Waste as your ultimate goal.

The Zero Waste International Alliance will:

- Initiate and facilitate research and information sharing for the promotion of Zero Waste
- Build capacity to effectively implement Zero Waste
- Set standards for the application of Zero Waste

The Zero Waste International Alliance operates at the international, national and local level and will involve all sectors of society.

Resources

From Landcare Queensland:

Grants & Funding:

- **Be Natural Landcare Grants** --Twenty grants of up to \$2,500 are available for volunteer community groups interested in getting a local environmental project off the ground such as a community garden, greening an urban space or inner-city veggie patch. Apply [online](#).
- **Supporting Women Scholarships** Applications are now open for the first round of the Queensland Government's Supporting Women Scholarships. [Read more](#)
- **Funding for Sustainable Agriculture Grazing Projects | 2 November** – The Burnett Mary Regional Group has funding to assist graziers adopt land management practices that improve soil health and enhance sustainability. [Read more](#)
- **Gambling Community Benefit | 30 November** -- This program provides one-off grants of up to \$35,000 to approved not-for-profit organisations. [Read more](#)
- **Marine Education Grant | 1 March 2013** Australian Marine Environmental Protection Association (AUSMEPA) awards a grant of up to \$3000 towards a student lead school marine education project that actively improves the marine environment. Applications close 1 March 2013. [Read more](#)

From WOTR:

Climate Change: Challenges (Eng; 5.04 mins) is a short video where Crispino Lobo, WOTR, outlines the challenges of the issues of Climate Change, that is confronting the people in rainfed regions of India. He highlights their vulnerability to erratic changes in climatic patterns and the effects it can have on these communities. (<http://youtu.be/f83xVhXHRl4>)

Climate Change: Solutions (Eng; 8.34 mins) is an overview of WOTR's Climate Change Adaptation project, which is an integrated, multi-pronged approach to address the complex issue of Climate Change. It showcases all the components of the project, which attempt to address the key factors that affect rural life and includes the critical knowledge generation aspects required for adaptation to climate change. (<http://youtu.be/qNwDzg3thaE>)

Creating a Climate for Change (Eng; 2.31 mins) is a photo montage that gives a quick overview of the different components of WOTR's Climate Change Adaptation Project. <http://youtu.be/9DTzXFQ0u7E>

Other:

Guide to reduce your energy use and save money

From curtains to LCD monitors, taking showers to making toast, the [Alternative Technology Association](#) (ATA)'s new guide examines ways to save money and improve energy efficiency around the home. Learn how to reduce your home's energy use without the need for major spending on appliances or home renovations. The [Guide to reducing your energy use and saving money](#) is available now as a PDF.

New Report – Our Uncashed Dividend: The Health Benefits of Climate Action

The Climate and Health Alliance and [The Climate Institute](#) have released a joint report: [Our Uncashed Dividend](#) on the health benefits of climate action. This report draws together a large and growing body of evidence from health and medical research showing substantial health benefits linked to measures to cut emissions. It demonstrates that actions that cut greenhouse gas emissions can improve Australians' health and could save billions of dollars for health care budgets and save thousands of lives each year.

The 2012 Australian Organic Market Report

The latest Market Report will be here soon! If you are in the business of organics and want to know where the sector is at and where it is heading in Australia you can't go past the Australian Organic Market Report., It's a great benchmarking tool for the organic industry... [READ MORE](#)

Learn more about the True Cost of Coal - A very good video about coal from Greenpeace

<http://www.greenpeace.org.au/savethereef/?section=learn-more#.UGY09xiiFOI>

Federal Government's new energy efficiency hub is www.eex.com.au

Energex and Ergon Energy's new website, yourpowerqld.com.au, informs Queenslanders on ways to best manage their energy use, and save, at the touch of a keyboard.

Wetlands Australia October 2012

The 21st edition of [Wetlands Australia](#) has just been published online. This twice-a-year publication brings together stories, information and updates about wetlands conservation, management and education from around the country, with contributions from community groups, governments, researchers and others. This edition of *Wetlands Australia* includes several feature articles on droughts and floods.

The **Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)** is pleased to announce the launch of a four-part series, "*Managing Climate Extremes and Disasters: Lessons from the IPCC SREX Report*" written specially for professionals in the water, agriculture, health and ecosystem conservation sectors. These CDKN Guides highlight the scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) [Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation](#) (known as 'SREX') for each of these sectors, and discuss the implications for decision-making. SREX found that disaster losses from extreme weather events will increase in the coming decades as the world's population grows and more and more people put themselves in harm's way. From mid-century onwards, manmade climate change will make an increasing contribution to disaster risk. Different kinds of extreme weather events – ranging from high temperatures to heavy rainfall – are likely to become more common by the end of the 21st century in most regions, and are more likely to be caused by climate change. Decision-makers tasked with planning for food security and agriculture production, the provision of fresh water to growing populations, public health services, and a healthy natural environment, all stand to benefit from this comprehensive set of scientific findings.

The SREX report itself was compiled over two and a half years, involving 220 expert authors, 19 review editors and a four-day approval process by government representatives from around the world. The final 594 page report and its 20 page summary represent the 'state of the art' of scientific knowledge about climate extremes and disasters. CDKN's "Managing Climate Extremes and Disasters: Lessons from the IPCC SREX Reports" for the agriculture, health and water sectors and for ecosystem management, produced by Agulhas: Applied Knowledge with support from Overseas Development Institute and CDKN, can now be downloaded here:

[Managing climate extremes and disasters in the water sector](#)

[Managing climate extremes and disasters in the agricultural sector](#)

[Managing climate extremes and disasters in the health sector](#)

[Managing climate extremes and disasters for ecosystems](#)

They join the existing CDKN Guides to SREX for Asia, Africa and Latin American and Caribbean regions, which are available on the CDKN website (www.cdkn.org/srex) and have been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese and Chinese.

[Human Dependence on Nature – How to Help Solve the Environmental Crisis](#)

By Haydn Washington, foreword by Paul R. Ehrlich

Humanity is dependent on Nature to survive, yet our society largely acts as if this is not the case. The energy that powers our very cells, the nutrients that make up our bodies, the ecosystem services that clean our water and air; these are all provided by the Nature from which we have evolved and of which we are a part. This book examines why we deny or ignore this dependence and what we can do differently to help solve the environmental crisis. Written in an accessible and engaging style, Haydn Washington provides an excellent overview of humanity's relationship with Nature. The book looks at energy flow, nutrient cycling, ecosystem services, ecosystem collapse as well as exploring our psychological and spiritual dependency on nature. It also examines anthropocentrism and denial as causes of our unwillingness to respect our inherent dependence on the natural environment. The book concludes by bringing these issues together and providing a framework for solutions to the environmental crisis.

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

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

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