



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2013 #5 --- 2 July 2013

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 all,

Two of our readers have submitted articles (thank you!) about consumerism and the way we, as a society, tend to waste unnecessarily. The feature articles have a lot of 'food for thought'. Do you throw out a pencil stump? Or do you run to the shop when the pencil is halfway gone to buy a new one? Do you buy an article because it's cool or fancy to have one? If you want to comment on the articles, please post on our [Facebook page](#) and start a conversation.

For a large part it is up to the consumer to make the decision to not buy something, or to not throw away something just yet. But businesses can also contribute and actively participate to reduce waste. Have a look at the little video in the National News section about an organisation called Good360. Very inspiring indeed!

Miriam Sharp, [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### July

11 - [World Population Day](#)

26 - [Schools Tree Day](#)

28 - [National Tree Day](#)

### August

19-25 - [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)

### September

23-36 – [River Symposium](#) – The 16th International Riversymposium to be held at the Brisbane Convention Centre provides an opportunity to look at the linkages that rivers provide to water-energy-food. Register now for the early bird rate and save \$450! Deadline is **22 July**.

27-29 September - [Queensland Landcare Conference 2013](#), Warwick

### HOPE information displays:

11 Aug - Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival, Queens Park – Toowoomba, Qld

21 Aug - U3A Seniors Expo, Humeridge Church – Toowoomba, Qld

24 Aug - CREEC (Caboolture Region Environment Education Centre) Expo – Burpengary, Qld

➔ - *Volunteers are required to help with transporting equipment & materials to and from events; plus staffing on the day. Contact the office on 4639 2135 to offer your assistance.*

### 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 Report

### Overview:

I had decided to write my office news report early – whilst it was quiet; and I had time to reflect more clearly on the busy-ness of the last month or so.

Then, the painters said they were available (to paint the inside of our house – which includes the HOPE office) and so panic set in!

We had to quickly pack up the contents and place everything into storage; as well as find a place to stay for the next week or so.

Hence the lateness of this newsletter!

We continue to support national campaigns such as *Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love* ([www.placesyoulove.org](http://www.placesyoulove.org)) and the move to introduce a *Container Deposit Scheme* by the Boomerang Alliance ([www.boomerangalliance.org.au/](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/)). Please ask your family, friends and work colleagues to support these important initiatives.

Also, community opposition to Coal Seam Gas (CSG) mining, because of the use of hydraulic fracturing, continues to grow. Please check out the latest information at [www.lockthegate.org.au/](http://www.lockthegate.org.au/).

State-wide, we continue to support the Qld Protect the Bush Alliance (QPtBA) and their efforts to enhance the National Parks estate and keep grazing, shooting and commercial activities out of the parks.

We're also inundated with Qld legislative changes cutting redtape and greentape. Please write to your local state government member or send a letter to your local newspaper expressing concern that the government is removing important and necessary environmental safeguards, checks and balances.

Locally, or should that be regionally, our involvement at Gardenfest 2013 back in May was quite successful. Whereas, our Celebrating Queensland's Environment event (3-7 June) - incorporating both World Environment Day (5 June) and Queensland Day (6 June) - wasn't as successful. See reports below. HOPE proposes to send two delegates to the Qld State Landcare Conference, 27-29 September in Warwick. If you would like to represent HOPE at this conference, please contact the office on 4639 2135 to receive an information kit.

### Congratulations:

Congratulations to [COOLmob](#) of the Northern Territory for recently conducting a great campaign of events and activities. Highlights included:

- Swap @ the Top (30 May) – “Swap your old stuff for new stuff”
- World Environment Day (5 June) – Campaign Showcase ---- *Don't Frack the Territory, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Car-pooling, Save our Top End Sea Life, Nuclear Free NT and Save Darwin Harbour.*
- Living Sustainably Family Day (8 June)
- Transition Film Festival (10-12 June) - *Promised Land; Chasing Ice; and Energy Autonomy*
- NT Solar Summit (12 June)

Finally, thanks to all who have made contributions to the running of the HOPE organisation – especially members of the management committee, office admin staff and the many local and online volunteers. Your efforts are appreciated.

*Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager – HOPE Inc.*

### **Report on HOPE's participation at Gardenfest, 3-5 May 2013**

We were very pleased with the overall response to our display, received from visitors to this year's Gardenfest event. Some photos of our site are enclosed for your reference.

A good volume of literature was taken; there was lots of discussion with patrons; and all of the demonstration activities attracted positive interest.

And, we covered our costs, thanks to funds raised from the raffle.

A big thanks to Jenny Marsden of Plan Ahead Events for providing 2 free sites (and some guide ropes to secure our shade tent from the sometimes strong winds).

Thanks to the sponsors who provided literature, promotional give-away items and prizes for our raffle: - Green Harvest, Bunnings, Seasol, Yates Australia, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Nursery & Garden Industry Association, Kialla Pure Foods and Reln/Tumbleweeds.

Thanks to Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North and Hon John McVeigh, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Member for Toowoomba South for assisting with photocopying of HOPE 'sustainable gardening' information sheets.

Thanks to Terry Ryan for providing the square foot gardening and worm farm; Neil Tracey-Smith for the loan of his compost tumbler; and Ian Simons for his chook tractor and live 'naked neck' chickens (Turkens) – the baby chicks were hugely popular with children and adults alike!

Lastly, a big thank you to HOPE members and supporters who helped with transporting materials to and from the site, staffing the display area and selling raffle tickets over the 3 days of the event - Terry Ryan, Wayne Ole, Barry Miller, Lee Sakrzewski, Kerry Kruger, Tia Rennie, Joy van der Wyk, Miriam & Rick Sharp and Mary Ondrus.



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### **Report on Toowoomba's Celebrating Queensland's Environment event, 3-7 June 2013**

Looking back over the week-long *Celebrating Queensland's Environment* event, there were many positive aspects and a couple of glaringly negative matters.

On the positive side, the event was supported by 15 organisations – including the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), 2 Queensland State Government departments, Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC), 2 faculties from the University of Southern Queensland and 9 envNGOs.

The participating organisations provided literature and posters for our information display area; and/or a delegate to talk at the Speakers Forum.

A large volume of literature and give-away items were distributed at the site; and a further 6 boxes of publications given to teachers and/or schools.

The poster display proved very popular with lots of discussion on pest plants and animals; as well as requests to provide information on indigenous plants of the Toowoomba area and basic care of injured wildlife.

On the negative side, 5 days for the display area was far too long! There were a number of 'quiet' periods – morning and afternoon – which was frustrating for our willing volunteers.

The speakers program was poorly attended and finished after the 4<sup>th</sup> presenter. Perhaps, an evening program would have been better received.

Perhaps, a little more media coverage would have been helpful.

A big thanks to HOPE members and supporters who helped with planning and organisation of the event; as well as helping with setup, staffing the display area, looking after the Speakers Program and packing-up – especially Joy van der Wyk, 4 members of WPSQ, Terry Ryan, Andrew Nicholson, Kerry Kruger, Miriam Sharp, Lee Sakrzewski, Tia Rennie and Mary Ondrus.

A special thanks to Barry Miller who looked after the Speakers Program.

Thanks to the following agencies who provided literature, posters, promotional items and/or a presenter for the Speakers Program: - Biosecurity Queensland (Craig Hunter), Birdlife Southern Queensland (Mr Grahame Rogers), Condamine Catchment Management Assn. (CCMA), Condamine Alliance (CA), Qld Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Koala Care, Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), Myall Park Botanic Garden (MPBG) Limited, Qld Parks & Wildlife Services (Mr Rob Ashdown), Private contributor of 2 large flora & fauna poster display boards, Toowoomba Regional Council (Cr Sue Englart), USQ Sciences (Andy le Brocq), USQ – Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments (ACSC) and Wildlife Preservation Society (WPSQ) Toowoomba Branch (Mr Don Holland).

On the whole, HOPE was delighted to have facilitated this new event for the Toowoomba region and we look forward to working with you again in the future.



### Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some of your time and talents to help share the workload!

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.

## Open Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

### **Great Barrier Reef facing grave threat from industrial port expansions**

Those lucky enough to have visited the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef will agree that it is a memorable experience. The clear water, colourful corals, fish, sharks, turtles and dolphins are all examples of why this wondrous place has been listed as one of the seven natural wonders of the world, and is touted as a national icon.

The reef also supports the livelihoods of many people living along its coastline. Tourism, fishing and research organisations all rely on the reef and in turn provide around \$7 billion annually for our economy and around 70,000 jobs. Queensland needs a healthy reef for a strong economy, now and in the future.

What many people don't realise is that despite its beauty, economic importance and world heritage listing, the Great Barrier Reef is under threat from massive new industrial developments along its coastline. Large scale mining operations, new rail lines and ports are planned, driven by a huge demand for coal, gas and other mineral resources, especially in India and China. There are at least 67 developments on the drawing board in or near the Great Barrier Reef, including five mega ports – one of which would become the largest coal export terminal in the world only 50kms from the tourism mecca — the Whitsunday Islands.

If these developments are approved, millions of tonnes of seafloor will be dredged and then dumped in the Great Barrier Reef waters and the number of freight ships criss-crossing the reef each year will nearly double to over 7000, putting the reef and the industries which rely on it at risk.

At a time when the reef needs stronger protection, the Queensland Government is fast tracking these developments and giving special treatment to industry. They've cut environmental protection, removed assessment officers and ignored the concerns of the community.

If we're not careful, Queensland will emerge from the "mining boom" with one of its best tourism icons ruined and the loss of a coastal lifestyle loved by many.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society has recently joined forces with WWF-Australia to fight for the reef and stop this massive threat of industrialisation. TV ads featuring long time conservationist Bob Irwin are helping to raise awareness in regional Queensland.

**But we can't do it without you.** We need you to join us in the fight for the reef and share the information about what's going on along the Reef's coast with your friends and family.

If we don't want the Reef to become an industrial zone and shipping super highway, we must let the Queensland and Australian governments know it's their job to protect it. After all, with mining you can only dig it up once, but if we look after the Reef it will be here forever.

**Every Australian wants to protect the Reef. But as Bob Irwin warns, we're going to have to fight for it.**

We are fighting so that our children and their children can enjoy the Reef's natural beauty. We are fighting for our fishers and tourism operators who need a healthy Reef for their livelihoods. And we are fighting so the Reef remains one of the great natural wonders of the world. It needs you now more than ever. Join [Fight for the Reef](#) today! Come and rally for the Reef in Brisbane on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

Lissa Schindler, Australian Marine Conservation Society, <http://www.marineconservation.org.au/>

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Dear Editor,

### **What could we build with \$50 million?**

Many of the members and member groups of 100% Renewable have a vision to own and operate their own local community wind and solar projects. We are delighted today to let you know about a new campaign run by our friends at the Coalition for Community Energy to establish a new \$50million fund to help get these projects off the ground. To find out more and show your support sign here: [www.fundcommunityenergy.org](http://www.fundcommunityenergy.org)

In the current state of Australian politics, it's rare to feel excited about breakthrough progress on climate change and renewable energy. But right now, there's something we can do to change the game. Over the coming weeks and months, Tony Abbott will be searching for opportunities to establish credentials on

renewable energy. In light of his “blood oath” to axe the carbon price, he knows he needs to find other ways to reassure voters that he takes climate change seriously. This gives the community an opportunity to convince Abbott and Gillard to do something incredibly useful and long overdue: support and fund community energy projects.

[Click here to sign the petition for a new community renewables fund](#)

Community-owned renewable projects cut carbon pollution, increase community engagement with clean energy, and bring new life to regional and rural Australia. Most importantly, they pave the path for an Australia powered by renewable energy that’s owned by everyday people, not vested interests in fossil fuels. It’s a simple, inspiring policy to explain – and it makes sense for communities and the climate.

We’ve lined up meetings to talk community energy with all the major parties for the first week of June. We won’t have the same opportunity after the election – which is why adding your voice today is so important: [www.fundcommunityenergy.org](http://www.fundcommunityenergy.org) Over 60 communities across Australia are looking to develop community owned wind and solar projects, but only two are already up and running. If the other 58 groups don’t receive start-up assistance soon, we risk the early momentum withering away.

The solution is simple: a new fund to help projects get through the difficult early stages - from inception, feasibility studies, planning approval, all the way to becoming investment-ready. Experts have calculated it will take \$50 million to support over 75 projects – but that this early support could leverage over half a billion dollars in investment in community renewable energy [1].

[Click here to give us the backing we need to show politicians that Australians understand and support community-owned renewable energy.](#)

With your support, we can unlock the potential for communities to invest in their own renewable energy.

Here’s to a brighter future!

Nicky Ison and Jarra Hicks, On behalf of the Coalition for Community Energy, <http://100percent.org.au/content/coalition-community-energy>

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## Feature Articles

### Waste Not, Want Not

by Susan Skowronski, <http://www.susanskowronski.com/>

Recently my husband wanted to borrow a lead pencil from me and looked in disgust at the one I offered. It was about 2cm long. He said if he put it behind his ear he’d never find it again. I admit I’m a hoarder, possibly because the words ‘Waste not, want not’ were engraved on my brain at an early age. I’m sure there are many of you who heard it over and over in your childhood.

I’m not suggesting you start collecting bits of string or saving your Christmas wrapping, but perhaps we do need to be more mindful of waste. A recent study showed that more than half of the world’s food goes to waste. The UK-based Institution of Mechanical Engineers, which carried out the study, says the waste is caused by poor storage, strict sell-by dates, bulk offers, and consumer fussiness.

In a world where people go to bed hungry, and where population increase in the future will put more pressures on the world’s resources, can we afford to ignore these figures? Not only is the food wasted, but all the water and energy used to produce the food is wasted too. Already twice as much fresh water is used in agriculture than in all other human needs. This is essentially our drinking water; salt water is not much use for drinking or growing crops without a lot of treatment and expense.

What can we do? As individuals, we can have an impact if we change our purchasing habits in several ways. Can you resist a bargain? If the supermarket has a special, can you limit your purchase to only what you can use? If offered two for the price of one, can you walk away with just one if that is all you can reasonably make use of? So much food bought on special ends up in the bin because people buy more than they can store effectively or use before it goes off. Do you discard food as it nears its use by date? Much of the food we ate as children did not have a use by date. Do you try to buy local produce? It costs less to transport it from the farmer to you, and the local farmer will benefit from your support. Many crops are destroyed because ‘cheaper’ imported food looks better to the customer. Are you content with canned or frozen food? Are you prepared to use food that has blemishes provided it is still fit to be eaten?

It is up to governments and big business to provide the infrastructure to transport, preserve, can or chill crops to bring them to the consumer but it is up to the consumer to make good use of the available food. It's not a new idea. This saying has been around since the sixteenth century but is as relevant today as it has even been. Remember it, say it, and practise it: waste not, want not.

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## **Consumerism is Killing the Planet**

by Pam Marshall – *The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe*, <http://theshoppe.com.au/>

If every single man, woman and child on earth lived the full 'consumer lifestyle' (of what we have become accustomed to) it would be physically impossible for the earth to sustain humanity. We are, in reality, living far, far beyond our means. Our lifestyle – although materially pleasurable – is impractical and obsolete in terms of the future. 'Consumer products' are created using resources and energy from the Earth. Thousands and thousands – hundreds of thousands – maybe even millions – of different products – from packaged food, clothing, appliances, knick-knacks, white-goods, home-ware, etc. etc. ALL produced via resources precious to the earth – from the raw materials used, the energy to create, chemical run-off from production and containers and packaging. Not to mention the fact that many of these products do not sell for various reasons – out-of-date, consumer disinterest, faults, etc. so are removed from the shelf and dumped as land-fill. 'Time is money' for large manufacturers – the responsible task of painstakingly recycling the products – both ingredients and container – is just not a 'profitable' option – so all these products are 'dumped' – further clogging up and poisoning the environment leaving Mother Nature and the environment to deal with it. What a huge waste and absolute disregard for the planet – the basis for which we rely upon for survival.

What can you do? The answer is simple – start the ball rolling by: BUYING LESS CONSUMER PRODUCTS. No longer partake in the mad rush to spend, spend, spend. Send the big companies the message that their behaviour is unacceptable. How? There are many ways to step away from consumerism – re-use what you already have, recycling, buy secondhand, and, of course, use alternatives, that is, use one single product that has multiple uses – replacing a range of individually manufactured products. And, educate others about the benefits of 'anti-consumerism' and alternatives.

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## **Telling a Story**

By CRN Australia

Last year CRN (Community Recycling Network) Australia commissioned a report from the Queensland University of Technology on Australian Community Recycling Enterprises and has now turned that report into a short documentary. It demonstrates that communities all over Australia are creating jobs by accessing unwanted goods and materials and turning those resources into cash which sustains their enterprise. It can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/64778485> or on the CRN Australia home page [www.communityrecycling.com.au](http://www.communityrecycling.com.au)

It features three great enterprises, Resource Recovery in Forster, NSW, Resource Co-Operative in Hobart, Tasmania, and The Endeavour Foundation in Queensland. There are interviews of workers in those enterprises and one with Associate Professor of Social Enterprise at QUT, Jo Barraket, and another with Great Lakes Council's Waste Manager John Cavanagh.

Resource Recovery's **Rachel Quillan** says "I've been working here for two years. A lot of people don't realise that the amount of stuff you can recycle, they come out with their trailer full of rubbish but only 10-15% of it is rubbish but the rest is recyclable or reusable." **Alison** from Endeavour says "Just about everything you see in this shop is what is pulled out of cars.... because to them it is rubbish but to us it's gold." Over 2000 km away **Sally Thompson** from Resource Co-Operative in Hobart says "Our most important partnership is with the Hobart City Council. We work together to improve Hobart's waste management, the partnership has been the key to us successfully running the tip shop... and that partnership has now been running for 18 years."

Great Lakes Council's Waste Manager, **John Cavanagh** says "I would encourage councils everywhere in Australia to buy into the CRE network....It's certainly been worthwhile for our Council." Report author **Jo Barraket** says "These are locally owned businesses so they keep money in the economy; they are businesses that exist for a social purpose so they're principally concerned with creating social and environmental outcomes which serve the communities in which they operate."

CRN Australia believes that every town with a population of 10,000 people or more can sustain a recycling enterprise. It's just another way of doing things differently. Australia today, has the largest number of people who are either unemployed or under-employed ever. At the same time it is producing more waste than ever, over 53.7 million tonnes. If this waste can be seen as a resource then it is not rocket science to think that it can generate a great deal of cash. CRN calls it "**Waste to Wages**"

#### **What you can do!**

- Circulate the video to people who you know who work for your local Council.
- Show the video to an organisation in your community which might be interested in starting an enterprise.
- Let CRN know of your action so your initiative can be supported.

#### **What CRN can do!**

- CRN can assist you with resources that will get you moving in developing an enterprise.
- CRN can put you in touch with people who have experience in operating a recycling enterprise.
- CRN is compiling an E-Book on how to operate a Community Recycling Enterprise to make your initiative less difficult.

**Contact the CRN Australia Network – [info@communityrecycling.com.au](mailto:info@communityrecycling.com.au)**

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## **General**

### **Climate change and the community sector | a new report**

People experiencing poverty and inequality will be affected first and worst by the impacts of climate change. The Extreme Weather, Climate Change and the Community Sector – Risks and Adaptations project examined the relationship between physical and social infrastructure (in the form of CSO service provision). Major findings include that community sector organisations are not prepared to respond to climate change events with many small and medium organisations at risk of permanent closure – for example, one week after an extreme weather event, 50% of organisations that sustain damage to premises would still be out of operation. This has implications for people experiencing poverty and other social issues, as these organisations act as shock absorbers for every day needs as well as crises. The full report is available at [http://www.nccarf.edu.au/sites/default/files/attached\\_files\\_publications/Mallon-Adapting-Community-Sector-Climate-Extremes.pdf](http://www.nccarf.edu.au/sites/default/files/attached_files_publications/Mallon-Adapting-Community-Sector-Climate-Extremes.pdf)

### **Help the honey bee**

Every Australian can help boost the survival of honey bees and protect the food we eat that depends on their pollination services, by growing the right plants and trees. A new guide is now available, highlighting pollen and nectar planting choices from the backyard to the bush which will provide food for honeybees. Everyone can make a difference by considering bees when they are planning small and large scale planting. Chairman of the Pollination Program Research and Development Advisory Committee Gerald Martin says there's increasing public concern for the well-being and survival of global honey bee populations, so this guide is timely.

"Three-quarters of agricultural production is reliant on pollination by bees to produce fruit, vegetables and seeds and honey bees are coming under increasing pressure from urbanisation, bushfires, changing agricultural practices and changing land management practices," Mr Martin said.

"Pests and diseases are an ever increasing threat, including the deadly bee pest Varroa mite which has wreaked havoc across the globe. Australia is one of the last countries free of the mite but it is accepted by scientists that it will eventually reach our shores. Small hive beetle and American foulbrood are major pests that our beekeepers already have to manage."

The guide lists herbs, shrubs, trees and other plants, broken up into suggestions for domestic gardens, streetscapes, urban open spaces, rural environments and stationary beekeeping, and further categorised by type of climate. Growing plants that provide food for honey bees can be accomplished at any scale, from a pot of herbs on a balcony to thousands of hectares of revegetation or pastures. Many of these plants are also beneficial to a range of other insects, birds and small mammals that live on nectar and pollen. The guide has been developed with funding from the Honeybee Program, which is managed by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC). Bee Friendly – A planting guide for European honeybees and Australian native pollinators is available to download free from the RIRDC website at [www.rirdc.gov.au/pollination](http://www.rirdc.gov.au/pollination) . Hard copies can also be ordered online.

[National Parks Association of Queensland \(NAPQ\)](#) has contributed to the establishment and conservation of National Parks in Queensland for the past 83 years.

The aims of NAPQ include:

- the preservation of existing National Parks in their natural condition
- the extension and good management of the system of National Parks in Queensland
- to educate the community in the importance and value of National Parks
- cooperation with authorities administering National Parks
- promotion of appropriate legislation dealing with National Parks and other Protected Areas.

NAPQ promote activities for the community to get involved in, such as bushwalking, camping, revegetation projects, bike rides and bird watching. See their website for upcoming activities. These activities keep the community engaged and active with local National Parks. NAPQ also hold public seminars.

National Parks Association of Queensland can be found at Unit 10/36 Finchley Street, Milton QLD 4064, Phone: 07 3367 0878, Fax: 07 3367 0890, Web: [www.npaq.org.au](http://www.npaq.org.au), Email: [admin@npaq.org.au](mailto:admin@npaq.org.au)

### [Are We 'Chasing Our Own Tail' on the Circular Economy?](#)

A new Earthscan from Routledge blog post: written by Philip Monaghan, author of [How Local Resilience Creates Sustainable Societies](#).

### [Doctors for the Environment Australia](#)

The World Health Organisation estimates that one quarter of global disease and one third of that in children is due to modifiable environmental factors. If humanity is to make progress in solving the major issues of our time, all sections of the community will need to contribute. Doctors for the Environment Australia aim to utilise the skills of members of the medical profession to address the ill health resulting from damage to the natural environment at local, national and global levels. Our concerns range from the health aspects of climate change to the environmental aspects of children's health and to the local cardio-respiratory effects of transport pollution.

Doctors for the Environment Australia are a voluntary organisation of medical doctors in all states and territories. We work to address the diseases – local, national and global – caused by damage to the earth's environment. For example, climate change will bring to Australia an increased burden of heat stroke, injury from fire and storm, infectious diseases and social disruption and mental illness; whilst in the developing world it will bring famine and water shortage.

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## Queensland News

### **Parks are for wildlife, some human activities but not cows!**

National parks in Queensland are under attack, with government plans to open them to logging, grazing, commercial development and damaging recreation. An article from Wildlife Australia's Autumn 2013 issue investigates the nefarious moves against our conservation estate in the eastern states. Read [Park Attack](#) (pdf).

The prime role and cardinal principle for management of national parks is the protection of our biodiversity. Unfortunately the LNP State Government does not share Wildlife Queensland's view. [Read More](#). Has the Government bothered to review the scientific evidence that clearly indicates native mammals are negatively affected and depleted on pastoral land? [Read More](#).

### [River takes out the trifecta](#)

Condamine Alliance is celebrating its third major environmental award within the year. The natural resource management group was awarded the 2013 United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Award for Biodiversity at a gala function in Melbourne. The latest award caps off a stellar year for the group who also won the prestigious 2012 Australian Riverprize and 2012 Banksia Award for Water late last year. All three awards are for the group's Dewfish Demonstration Reach project which has helped increase native fish populations in the Condamine River by up to 1000%. Condamine Alliance CEO Phil McCullough said this latest win has left him speechless. "We were delighted to be named finalists in this national award but

we are absolutely thrilled to have won it,” Mr McCullough said. “Over the past 5 years our partners and the community have worked hard to repair our river and it is fantastic to see this acknowledgement,” he said.” “It is a privilege and honour to receive this award from such a strong field of worthy finalists across Australia.” “We congratulate all finalists and recognise their valuable contributions to the environment in their area. Our country is a better place for all their dedication and work.”

### **Calling all green thumbs with time to spare**

QMDC is trialing a new gardening mentor program with schools and need ‘green thumbs’ with an interest in gardening, biodiversity or the environment to join us as volunteers. The ‘Dirty Gloves in Schools Program’ will team volunteers with schools in Toowoomba (and beyond as it grows) to mentor students as they develop vegetable and native gardens, and projects demonstrating Landcare ethos. There are many people in our community with valuable gardening skills and we are hopeful of linking them with schools to share their experience and guide students toward successful outcomes. Schools we have contacted to date have embraced the concept and at this stage are mostly looking for mentors with gardening and composting expertise. We are able to provide training and support to volunteers and would be keen to meet with anyone interested in obtaining a Blue Card and getting involved in our ‘Dirty Gloves in Schools Program’. Contact Shelley by email: [shelleyp@qmdc.org.au](mailto:shelleyp@qmdc.org.au) or call 4637 6200.

### **EDO Advice Line starts**

Thanks to the wonderful help of our 12 volunteer solicitors, we’ve had a successful start to our advice line! If you have a query relating to environmental or planning law that is in the public interest please phone our office on 3211 4466 between 5.30pm and 7pm on Tuesday or Thursday. You may also phone our office during normal business hours; we can record the details of your enquiry, do the necessary conflict checks, and a volunteer solicitor can return your call during the advice line hours. Please read our advice and casework guidelines before you call: <http://www.edo.org.au/edoqld/who-we-help/>

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## **National News**

### **Fossil Free Australia**

#### **Move our money out of fossil fuels to secure a safe climate future!**

If we want a liveable planet, we can’t burn most of the world’s remaining carbon. Securing a safe climate means that 80% of current fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground—yet most of our super funds, banks, religious institutions, universities, workplaces, and local councils are invested in these reserves. We believe it’s time to change this. It’s time to move our money out of fossil fuels and into the clean energy economy. Australia is one of the most carbon-intense economies in the world, yet we are rich in renewable energy resources. As members, beneficiaries, and customers of super funds, banks, educational and religious institutions, and governments, each of us can play a powerful role in divesting Australia’s economy from fossil fuels. **If it’s wrong to wreck the climate, then surely it’s wrong to profit from that wreckage. Join the Fossil Free Australia community today to bring on the clean energy revolution!**

For more information, contact [info@350.org.au](mailto:info@350.org.au)



### [Website converts excess goods to good deeds](#) – Good 360

A [website](#) launching in Australia aims to help companies convert excess goods into good deeds, reducing their costs and environmental impact along the way, and all inspired by a touching story of love. Watch the video and be inspired!

### [Can urban farms feed city and soul?](#)

Green walls, rooftop vegetable gardens and balcony growing systems are capturing the imagination of city-dwellers everywhere. But is it time for a reality check on the viability of producing food in urban environments?

### **National Container Deposit Scheme ... from a South Australian perspective**

A National Recycling Scheme for Australians is the way to reduce the amount of bottle and can waste littered around the countryside, which also provides income and employment opportunities for disadvantaged Australians. South Australia has had this scheme for many years and enjoys a cleaner environment along roadways, beaches and public places, which is very noticeable when you cross the border into Victoria or NSW. When you attend a public concert or cricket match in SA people actually collect the cans and bottles during or after the event to take home as extra pocket money for their family. All you need is 50 cans/bottles/flavoured milk or juice containers to earn an extra \$10.00 to spend, and that's tax free! It's a no brainer so support the move for a National Recycling Scheme today!

<https://www.greenpeace.org.au/action/?cid=43&src=GP1>

### **Protecting Biodiversity by Improving Connectivity**

In fragmented landscapes, wildlife corridors that connect healthy ecosystems are necessary to maintain biodiversity. They allow populations to interbreed which improves long-term genetic viability; they provide access to larger habitats which ensures a wider range of food sources and shelter; and they provide an avenue for animals to move or shelter in times of stress, during wild fires and climate change impacts. [Continue reading](#)

## World News

The NGO [Shipbreaking Platform](#) is a global coalition of 18 environmental, human rights and labour rights organisations promoting safe and clean ship recycling. The NGO recently launched a data-driven website which lists all the ships that have been sent for breaking on the beaches of South Asia since 2009. On the website, more than 1,000 shipping companies that commercially benefited from selling their ships for breaking in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are listed. It is well documented that shipbreaking on the South Asian beaches causes labour rights violations and severe environmental degradation. The [www.offthebeach.org](http://www.offthebeach.org) website is the backbone of the NGO Shipbreaking Platform's OFF THE BEACH! campaign, which aims to raise awareness on harmful shipbreaking practices and to promote clean and safe ship recycling. The campaign is not only targeted at the ship-owners' community, but also at consumers and cargo owners by enabling them to choose responsible ship-owners to carry their goods around the world.

The database documents more than 2,600 ships that were scrapped in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan since 15 May 2009, the date when the International Maritime Organization's Hong Kong Convention was adopted by the international community. It is obvious that the Hong Kong Convention does nothing to prevent the horrific beaching practices widely used today, nor does it have the aim to prevent such practices in the future. In fact, more ships have been beached annually since Hong Kong was adopted. The OFF THE BEACH! database includes information on the shipping companies that sold these vessels to substandard shipbreaking facilities, including an overview of their operational fleet (more than 14,000 ships), so that cargo owners can make an informed decision on whom they choose to do business with.

Some of the shipping companies listed for having sent ships to substandard facilities since 2009 have meanwhile changed their recycling policies. These success stories are featured in the blog section of the website, where the Platform will also showcase disappointing setbacks.

*"Despite the rhetoric to the contrary, the vast majority of shipping companies continue to dump their old toxic ships on the beaches and labourers in South Asia, a practice which would, for instance, never be allowed in Europe, the US, Japan or China where most ship-owners are based", says Patrizia Heidegger, Executive Director of the NGO Shipbreaking Platform. "Today, we witness the launch of the first-ever transparent web application where information on shipping companies breaking practices dating back four years can be accessed, and used as a basis for making responsible choices. We call not only on ship owners, but also on*

*all companies that use shipping to carry their goods and on the banking sector which invests in these companies to integrate safe and clean ship recycling in their corporate social responsibility plans."*

Contact Delphine Reuter Communication Officer, NGO Shipbreaking Platform +32 2 6094 418  
[delphine@shipbreakingplatform.org](mailto:delphine@shipbreakingplatform.org)

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### **Future Earth Science Committee announced**

The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), on behalf of the [Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability](#), announced the members of the first Science Committee for [Future Earth](#), a new 10-year research programme on global sustainability. Mark Stafford Smith, Science Director of CSIRO's Climate Adaptation Flagship in Canberra, Australia will be the inaugural Chair, Melissa Leach, Director of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) STEPS (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) Centre in the UK and Belinda Reyers, a Chief Scientist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in South Africa, will serve as Vice Chairs.

## **Helpful Hints**

From [The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe](#)

### **Non toxic cleaners:**

#### All-purpose Surface Spray Grime/Stain Remover:

Mix together 1/3 cup each of water, cloudy ammonia and liquid soap-jelly OR bio-degradable dishwashing detergent. Add few drops eucalyptus oil. Mix and store in recycled spray container. Label the container.  
*(Very handy and excellent for removing stains on clothing (before washing) or spray onto surfaces to clean grime, grease and dirt from walls, vinyl, stove top, tiles, around light switches, etc.).*

#### Oven Cleaner:

Mix together 1/3 cup bicarb soda with 1/4 cup vinegar. Add 2 teaspoons soap jelly or biodegradable detergent. The mixture will froth a little due to the combination of alkali (bicarb soda) and acid (vinegar) so make sure it is in a suitably large container. Once the frothing has settled apply the paste to the inside of a warm oven. Scrub difficult spots if necessary. Wipe off paste (and oven residue) by first spraying with warm water.

### **'Cheats' Expensive Hand-cream:**

Make a hand and skin cream similar to commercial preparations (at a much cheaper cost!) by using sorbolene cream. Simple purchase from the chemist a jar of plain sorbolene (one that has the least amount of added chemicals and water - check the label). Add almond oil (or grape-seed oil) for added moisture for the skin - add a little at a time - start with one teaspoon per 100ml sorbolene - test on your skin to see if it is of the correct oiliness - add more oil if required. Then mix in a few drops of essential oil (such as lavender) for some added natural perfume. Nearly all commercial skin creams are sorbolene-based - this simple homemade cream is better because it contains less chemicals and uses quality ingredients too expensive (and 'unprofitable') for commercial manufacturers. *When I make my version at home I add a tablespoon or two of infusion (fresh flowers infused with hot water, then strained) containing fresh rosemary, calendula and lavender from the garden to enhance the healing effect of the cream - rosemary and calendula flowers are particularly good for the skin. This cream is easy to make - can be done in a few minutes and makes an inexpensive yet impressive gift.*

**Citrus or Rose Soap-Bag** (*Soap is a safe, environmentally friendly alternative to detergents and body washes. Use left-over scraps for extra savings!*):

Mix together: 2 teaspoons grated soap, 1 teaspoon oatmeal and 1/2 teaspoon grated citrus peel or chopped fresh rose petals. Mix well. Spoon into the centre of a pretty piece of fabric or handkerchief. Tie with matching ribbon. (Or, if handy with the sewing machine make up a small pillow or sachet). Use in place of soap when showering, bathing or hand-washing.

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## Resources

### Websites

#### **Website Upgrade**

In an effort to communicate more effectively, Queensland Conservation has just upgraded its website. The new website displays a fresher and friendly interface, with logical and functional layouts. This upgrade will better enable Queenslanders who are concerned about the environment to visit the site for up-to-date news, views and ways to get involved. We also have a new URL that will make us easier to find [www.QldConservation.org.au](http://www.QldConservation.org.au)

#### **WetlandInfo launches new website**

The redeveloped WetlandInfo website is now available. After many months of consultation with stakeholders the new site is more user friendly, has a new look and feel, improved structure and a suite of upgraded tools and technical capabilities. The most popular tool on WetlandInfo — WetlandSummary—is now accessible with just one click from the homepage and features groundwater dependent ecosystem mapping, many new search areas, a moveable map, direct links to WetlandMaps and much more. This site has some great tools and information available.

### Book Reviews and Reports

#### **New updated Solar Electricity e-booklet**

[Alternative Technology Association's \(ATA\)](http://shop.ata.org.au) popular guide to solar power for the home has just been updated. Plan your own solar electricity system with this thorough but concise e-booklet, available for just \$5 or \$4.25 for ATA members as a PDF download from the ATA's Webshop. Go to [http://shop.ata.org.au/](http://shop.ata.org.au)

#### **OECD Publication Highlights Household Environmental Attitudes**

An Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publication, titled "Greening Household Behaviour" and published as part of the OECD series on Environmental Policy and Individual Choice (EPIC), highlights household environmental attitudes in 11 survey countries and actions that governments can implement to influence change and increase access to greener choices.

The 2011 survey for this publication looked at attitudes to the environment in 11 countries: Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. It also looked at how governments can reduce environmental impacts from their citizens. Information was collected from more than 12,000 households with a focus on energy and water use, transport, food consumption and waste generation.

Among other things, the findings demonstrate the need for appropriate economic incentives to influence people's choices and the need for scaling up services and infrastructure. Key findings include: significant unmet household demand for electricity generated from renewable resources; water charges based on the amount of water used increase household's effort at water conservation; and energy efficiency labels play a role in reducing electricity demand.

The publication highlights: the importance of measures that increase consumer access to greener choices such as public transport and recycling services; higher energy prices are likely to have adverse welfare impacts on low-income households without significantly reducing consumption; and scaling up public information and education campaigns is critical for raising household awareness of costs and charges. [Publication: [Greening Household Behaviour](#)] [[OECD Press Release](#)] [[OECD Book Announcement](#)]

*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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*