



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2013 #6 – 20 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Hi,

This edition of the bulletin is much shorter than usual so as to bring us back on schedule with delivery.

Please take particular note of Upcoming Events, HOPE's schedule of information displays and the Office Report.

Miriam Sharp, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Calendar of Upcoming Events

July

24 - GECKO **Guest Speaker Night will be 6.30 pm Wednesday 24th July** and will feature Richard Hil and Jennifer Grainger relating their experiences with **community gardens in New York City**. Refreshments available for a gold coin donation. RSVP 34 1412 for catering purposes.

24-26 - [Clean Energy Week](#), Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

25 – Public Lecture by Dr Helen Caldicott, Physician, Author, Speaker – “The medical implications of global warming”, USQ, Toowoomba Campus, Allison Dickson Theatre, 12noon-1pm. Please RSVP via VCRSVP@usq.edu.au

26 - [Schools Tree Day](#)

28 - [National Tree Day](#)

August

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

19-25 - [Fair Food Week](#)

September

23-26 - [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

15 Aug - SQIT (Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE) *Open Day* – 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.

Please join us for morning tea and chat from 10am onwards. Phone the office on 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming.

Office News Report --- 21 July 2013

In my roles as both the President and acting Office Manager, I see first-hand the volume of correspondence coming into the office and being dealt with by members of the Management Committee and admin support volunteers. There is always more work than the existing pool of volunteers can manage! So, please consider offering some of your time and talents to help us operate more effectively at national, state and local/regional levels.

HOPE's current membership stands at 126 members and 438 supporters. I seek your help "spreading the word about HOPE" and increasing our membership.

As we start a new financial year, the Management Committee is looking at opportunities to secure funding through project and equipment grants, sponsorship and fund-raising. We would also welcome your financial support by way of a donation. Please forward donations to HOPE Inc. as per the address at the top of this newsletter.

We want to know if you think we are doing a good job. Please provide feedback on any aspect of HOPE operations – including our website and newsletter. We welcome knowing of your issues, concerns or interest regarding the environment.

Lastly, we encourage those in the Toowoomba area to visit our information displays, to say hello and to peruse the literature available.

Frank Ondrus, President and acting Office Manager – HOPE Inc.

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 to offer your assistance.

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



An advertisement for Excel Solar. The background is dark blue with a yellow and orange gradient at the top. The logo 'EXCEL Solar' is at the top left, with 'Power from the sun - we make it happen!' below it. To the right is 'LIC: 69582'. Below the logo is the text 'Want free power from the sun? Call us today and speak to one of our knowledgeable staff about grid connected solar systems.' A large yellow starburst contains the text 'Call us now for your site visit!'. To the right of the starburst is the text 'Not sure if Excel Solar is for you? Excel Solar prides themselves on being a local company that provides local jobs and an ongoing cleaner future. Even the Highfields Pioneer Village has installed one of our systems!'. At the bottom, it says 'Call Now! (07) 4638 7344'.

Open Letters to the Editor

Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network (CORENA) Inc.

By Margaret Hender, CORENA chairperson

Want more renewable energy? It's what we need to tackle climate change and avoid the health and environmental impacts of coal and gas. CORENA is the short name for Citizens Own Renewable Energy Network Australia Inc. We have set up a donation mechanism that enables 'the people' to collectively fund renewable energy projects instead of just waiting on government action. For our Small Projects, we use the donated money to offer interest-free loans to community-serving organisations to pay for solar installations and energy efficiency measures. They pay back the loan out of the savings on their power bills, and those repayments revolve straight back into the next Small Project, then the next, and so on. We only have one atmosphere, so we all benefit from the reduction in GHG emissions regardless of where that reduction occurs. Millions of Australians want more renewable energy, but we need a little help from groups such as yours to reach all those people. **Please LIKE this post pinned to the top of our [Facebook page](#) and SHARE it on your own page to help us reach the \$12,000 target for our first Small Project.**

Eventually our Small Projects will become self-financing way into the future, with the repayments of existing loans being paid forward to fund all future Small Projects. To reach that point we need 1 million Australians willing to donate \$2.40 each, or 100,000 people willing to donate \$24, or 10,000 people donating an average of \$240. Not so hard I think! **Would your group like to help us reach enough people to make this work?** If your members don't use Facebook much, perhaps you could simply forward this email to your members and ask them to tell their friends about this new people-powered mechanism for making a difference.

The other CORENA project the public might choose to donate to is our very ambitious Big Project - a 50MW solar thermal plant with storage (or a smaller utility-scale renewable energy plant if we don't have enough money for solar thermal). This is also a revolving fund. All subsequent profit from electricity sales will be channelled straight into funding the next Big Project. You can read about the CORENA projects at <http://corenafund.org.au/>. CORENA is just the non-profit caretaker organisation. All projects are funded by 'the people', and the resultant assets belong collectively to everyone. This is a new concept, and we need to break through the 'drop in the ocean' barrier to make it work. I'm so looking forward to the day when we can demonstrate that this concept is working by publishing images of the first completed Small Project on our website! Please donate to the Tulgeen Small Project if you can, but most importantly, please SHARE the post pinned to the top on [our Facebook page](#) or forward this email to your members (or both!) to help us spread the word. Also please just shoot us a quick reply to this email saying what you have done so we can thank you. :)

Margaret Hender, CORENA chairperson

PS: If you have an event, petition, or similar that you want us to help promote, feel free to post it on the CORENA Facebook page. It won't show up immediately, but it will as soon as we see it and approve it.

General

The latest from the Routledge blog:

[Farmers' Rights and Sustainable Development](#) by Regine Andersen and Tone Winge

Landcare Week Resources for groups

With Landcare Week 2013 fast approaching, this year we are spreading the message that [Landcare is for Everyone](#). A bumper kit of free [promotional resources](#) for all groups and networks to use is available for download, and includes branded artwork for flyers, posters, and lots more, which can be edited to include your own event and group details.

If your group is running an event why not go to www.landcarelife.com.au and include it on our Landcare events calendar? Encourage people in your local community to get involved with Landcare and get involved with LIFE during Landcare Week 2013!

[Grey areas in greening cities](#), Jo Isaac

How can we accommodate the extra 6 or 7 million people expected to populate our major cities by 2056 – while also reducing the carbon footprint of individual Australians? Is the answer to increase urban density? But is medium-to-high density development the best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cities? And how can we protect biodiversity in a concrete jungle?

Solar Citizens: Helping solar owners take back control over their power bills

Rex was a teacher and ran a successful small business for 20 years before retiring 3 years ago. He installed a 1 kW system on his old weatherboard house in regional Victoria as a way of taking control of his electricity bills. "We'd never live without solar again." Rex says. "We've been able to become more efficient, and the money we save pays for our gas bill".

Rex is not alone. Over 1 million households in Australia have installed solar on their rooftops, investing over \$8 billion dollars of their own money into clean energy generation that starts at home. But, solar users like Rex are under attack. The move by millions of Australians to take energy production into their own hands is a big threat to the business model of the big energy companies. They are flexing their lobbying and financial power to ensure their profits remain high—even if it means blocking solar and costing ordinary Australians.

That's why solar users in Australia have come together to launch Solar Citizens - to make sure the interests of people who want to generate clean, renewable energy at home and at work are protected and to ensure:

- Every Australian can take up the benefits of solar in their home or in their community
- Solar homeowners are paid a fair price for the power they contribute to the grid
- Solar homeowners are able to connect to the grid
- Solar homeowners are not subject to unreasonable charges or tariffs

Solar Citizens has pressured Premier Campbell Newman to back down from putting a higher tariff on solar owners. If you want to strengthen the voice as a solar business or solar household are protected across the country, join Solar Citizens today.

Learn more at and become a Solar Citizen at: solarcitizens.org.au.

What is ocean energy?, Jenny Hayward and Chris Knight

Renewable ocean energy harnesses the power of the oceans to produce electricity. This can be done in several ways, but the resources that have the most immediate potential in terms of energy production for Australia and globally are the following.

Sign petition to ban GM wheat trials in Australia

Please sign this [good petition](#)! Frankenflour? Mutant Muffin? Weird Waffle? Genetically Manipulated wheat trials can contaminate non GM crops, and have in the USA. GM wheat trials have been at 13 sites in Australia. Please call on the federal government for an immediate halt and clean up. The risk to our health, economy and the environment is too great. Ban GM trials now!

Queensland News

Clean Energy Week - 24 to 26 July, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

[Clean Energy Week](#) is Australia's largest event for the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, incorporating ATRAA (Australia's largest solar conference), a huge trade exhibition, a schools program and events for the general public. Hosted by the [Clean Energy Council](#), Australia's peak industry body, the week will deliver the latest on policy initiatives and technology developments, as well as the opportunity to make valuable new contacts and close critical business deals. After drawing more than 2500 local and international delegates to Sydney for the 2012 event, Clean Energy Week is set to be even bigger when it comes to Brisbane from 24 - 26 July 2012. For more information or to register, visit the [Clean Energy Week website](#).

Nemo knows, but what does the Reef mean to you?

What does the future hold for the Great Barrier Reef and what part will we play? In the most extensive social study to date, CSIRO is asking 5000 locals, visitors to the reef and businesses how they use, relate to and value the Great Barrier Reef.

National News

Every Day is World Environment Day for the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF)

On 5 June World Environment Day the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) celebrated a successful year building the National Bin Network across Australia with the delivery of more than thirty Away from Home recycling projects at airports, universities, shopping centres and sports stadia as well as glass recycling projects providing opportunities for more than **42,000 tonnes of drinks and food containers** to be **recycled which would otherwise have been destined for landfill or litter!** Congratulations and thank you to all of our project partners. Further information on the Packaging Stewardship Forum can be found at <http://www.afgc.org.au/psf.html>.

Sustainable Australia Report 2013

Every two years, the National Sustainability Council delivers a public report against sustainability indicators. The Sustainable Australia Report 2013 has just been released, showcasing Australia's progress in moving towards a more sustainable future. It also highlights key trends, areas for improvement, emerging issues and challenges we are currently facing. The report is an important tool for policy and decision makers in Australia.

Tony Burke, Minister for the Environment, welcomed the Sustainable Australia Report as a major contribution to the government's efforts to achieve a sustainable Australia. Mr Burke acknowledged that sustainability is about more than just the economy, it encompasses our health, education, happiness and the environment we live in. Sustainability also affects the type of society we want to live in today and what we will pass on to future generations.

The Sustainable Australia Report will better inform policy makers, businesses and individual Australians about how we can all get involved to create a more sustainable future. The establishment of the National Sustainability Council in 2010 was an important step in the government's efforts to work towards a sustainable country.

The report can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/sustainability/measuring/publications/sustainable-australia-report-2013.html>

[Call for comment on Canberra's new water plan by 30 August 2013](#)

The ACT Government is inviting the community to have their say on the [Draft ACT Water Strategy](#) by 30 August 2013. Consultation includes workshops and online discussion forums. The draft Strategy takes a long-term view (30–50 years) of water resource planning in the ACT. It considers all water sources and the needs of urban areas, the environment, industry and commercial development, and builds on the *Think water, act water* initiative released in 2004.

[App for all to map pest animals](#)

Farmers and communities can now use mobile phones to map pest animals and document the damage they cause in their local area on a citizen-science website, [FeralScan](#), using mobile phone technology.

[Tassie farmers sign up to new conservation initiative](#)

A new \$3.3 million conservation fund that aims to conserve biodiversity on farms in the Tasmanian Midlands has been launched at 'Beaufront' in Ross – one of ten properties now signed up to the fund.

[App helps prevent native frogs being killed as cane toads](#)

Travelling around the top end of Australia, would you be able to tell the difference between a poisonous cane toad and a bumpy rocket frog or a giant frog? While they look similar, they sound quite different.

World News

[Future Earth and UN science – policy processes](#)

One of the main objectives of Future Earth is to play a prominent role in international science – policy processes. In this regard, Future Earth, based on the work by the GEC research programmes, has started to feed scientific knowledge into the process of defining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Agreement among the world's governments to develop a set of SDGs was one of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 summit. A UN Open Working Group (OWG) has started its work in March 2013 to define a set of proposed goals for submission to and approval by the UN General Assembly. Currently, the OWG focuses on a comprehensive information gathering exercise, as well as on initial discussions around the concept and scope of SDGs. As invited by the UN, ICSU and ISSC have provided scientific input to the deliberations of the OWG over the last four months. In early June, the ICSU and ISSC executive directors have sent a circular mail to the Future Earth scientific community inviting contributions from the community for submissions to the secretariat of the OWG in the UN in New York. Contributions are especially required related to thematic areas such as industrialization and energy, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity. These and other themes will be the subject of OWG meetings later in 2013 and in early 2014. Science for sustainable development was also on the agenda of the ministerial segment of the 2013 UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held in Geneva, 1 - 4 July. In an ICSU statement at this session, the role of Future Earth in sustainability research and outreach to policy makers was highlighted. Visit <http://www.futureearth.info> for more information on the Future earth project.

[Incentives for Skyrise Greenery in Singapore](#)

As more and more land is taken up by buildings, we need to ensure that greenery lost on the ground is replaced in the urban environment. [Skyrise Greenery](#) reinforces Singapore's 'City in a Garden' aspiration even as the environment becomes more built up. Under the [Skyrise Greenery Incentive Scheme](#), the Singapore National Parks Board will fund up to 50% of installation costs of green roofs and vertical greenery.

[Peru unveils plan to use solar panels to provide electricity to 2 million people](#)

The National Photovoltaic Household Electrification Program will benefit more than 2 million people in Peru, Energy and Mining Minister Jorge Merino said. The program will provide electricity to poor households using solar panels.

Helpful Hints

From [The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe](#) , Pam Marshall

Recycling Food

It makes good kitchen sense to not waste a thing. Everything ultimately comes from the earth - we should therefore respect that source for our continued survival into the future. Tons and tons of precious food are discarded everyday all over the world. Do your bit in your own home by reusing and recycling food BEFORE relegating it to the rubbish or compost bin. Here's some ways to reuse bread (from e-Booklet No. 80 - Uses for Stale Bread):

Pastry alternative: Use stale bread to line pie dishes, muffins tins, etc. in place of pastry - remove crusts from bread first and cut to required shape. For a thinner, crispy pastry roll the bread with a rolling pin (works best with stale soft bread - not dry). Stale mountain bread can also be used in place of pastry as a pie base or lid – its healthier & cheaper!

Bread Pan-cakes: Ideal for very dry hard bread. Cut the bread into circles. Give them a quick dunk in some hot salted water. Place on greased pan and brown both sides. Serve as a pancake with honey and cream/ice cream.

Bread Crumb-Pasta Snack: Cook 250g pasta in the usual way. Drain. Melt 3 tablespoons butter. Sauté one clove of garlic (finely minced). Add 1 cup bread crumbs. Saute. Add to hot pasta and toss to coat. Add grated Parmesan and/or chopped parsley if desired.

So enthralled am I about ways to use up stale bread I've put together a whole e-book. It's very useful kitchen resource saving dollars in the process:

e-Booklet No. 80: Ways to Use Stale Bread: Over 80 recipes and suggestions for using stale bread - from bread crumbs to many practical uses to save money and time, as a filler and binder, recipes for soups, sauces, entrees, main dishes, desserts, cakes and biscuits, includes bread in craft work, healing wounds, coffee substitute, cleaning teeth and more - all using left over stale bread! Price: 12.00 [To download click here](#)

Resources

Websites

CERES Sustainability Hub - new website coming soon!

The Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies ([CERES](#)) is a not-for-profit, sustainability centre located in East Brunswick, Melbourne. CERES will soon be launching their new and improved [CERES Sustainability Hub](#) in Term 3. The Sustainability Hub contains information on education programs offered by CERES including ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic and CERES Excursion and Incursions for schools.

Coal Gas fracking web links

If you are interested in coal gas fracking but don't really understand what's involved, see the web sites below for explanations and information:

<http://banmichiganfracking.org/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=aU6DJE9h6uc

www.frackingfacts.com.au/

<http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/industry-a-resources/item/1948-environmental-affects-of-fracking-unclear-csiro-study.html>

Knowledge Navigator

The ever-growing number of knowledge sharing platforms on climate change and development has meant that users of climate knowledge are often unsure which services are most appropriate to their needs. A new interactive tool has been developed by the Institute of Development Studies Knowledge Services in partnership with multiple organisations, which aims to help users tackle this problem. The new tool, called the [Knowledge Navigator](#), guides users through to appropriate climate change websites helping them to access knowledge that best suits their needs or share their own experiences and resources. The tool can be embedded into any website to help users to access other related climate change information. Watch this video for an overview of what the new tool can do: <http://bit.ly/knowledge-navigator> The project has been supported by [CDKN](#). Do get in touch with us if you have any comments or queries: knowledge-navigator.org/content/contact-us

Keep up to date with [GM-free news](#), visit **Gene Ethics Facebook page** to be informed on how to support and sustain GM-free futures. Our zippy new website will be launched soon, to provide all the campaign resources and advice you may need. Meanwhile, all current GM-free news will be on our Facebook page where it is easy and quick to see and respond to.

Share and search with new Regional Catalogue

Australians now have one, easy place to share and search anything related to natural resource management in the Condamine catchment. The [Regional Catalogue](#) was launched by Condamine Alliance who will host the online resource. Condamine Alliance expects the catalogue will become a valuable and popular tool for business, government and community. "Until now we have never had a single point for all the information related to the management of natural resources throughout the catchment," said Lucy Richardson, Condamine Alliance Manager-Science. "This catalogue is not only a directory of information but it also provides the original source so people know who to contact for a specific report, plan, map, policy or other record type," Lucy said. [Read the full story here.](#)

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

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