



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2013 #8 --- 23 September 2013

The following items have been gathered 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 there,

Let's do something fun! We have organised a trip to the Reverse Garbage facility in Brisbane and we would like you all to join us. We are going on Saturday 19 October. We'll be given a tour of the site and then you can do some shopping. [Register NOW](#) through the office and put it in big letters on your calendar!

Also in this enews ... Kara Daniell has investigated green cars for you and written a Feature Article about it; Harry Johnson has commented on reusing and recycling in the Letter to the Editor; and there is a link to an article from Tim Flannery about greening your outdoor living space.

Miriam Sharp, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September

[National Biodiversity Month](#) – all month

16 - [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

21 - [World Parks Day](#)

22 - [World Car-Free Day](#)

23-27 - [World Maritime Day](#)

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.

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

October

2 - 4 [Queensland Coastal Conference Townsville](#)

7 - [World Habitat Day](#)

4 - [World Animal Day](#)

13 - [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)

16 - [National Ride to Work Day](#)

[National Water Week](#) - third week in October

19 - 25 [Bird Week](#)

Date claimers for HOPE initiated events & activities

19 Oct - Visit to Reverse Garbage, Brisbane

Organic Gardening workshop series, Toowoomba — co-hosted by SQIT Horticulture & HOPE

Workshop #1: WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SOIL—Saturday 26 October, 1.30-4pm

Workshop #2: WORMS, ORGANIC MATTER AND NUTRIENTS—Saturday 9 November, 1.30–4pm

Workshop #3: COMPOST MAKING—Saturday 23 November, 1.30-4pm

(see Office News section for full details)

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 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming.

Office News Report

I have some good and bad (sad) news to report this month.

On the positive side, the Organic Gardening workshop series will take place during October and November at SQIT Horticulture (Toowoomba campus); and planning had begun for next year's *Celebrating Our Environment Expo* which will be held on Wednesday 4 June 2014 at the University of Southern Queensland (Toowoomba campus).

We also continue to support national initiatives and campaigns such as:

- Lock the Gate Alliance
- Protect the Laws that Protect the Places You Love
- Container Deposit System
- Transition Towns

HOPE is also a member of:

- Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
- Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC)
- Qld Protect the Bush Alliance
- Friends of SEQ

On the down side, our quarterly Ordinary Meeting of 14 September was HUGELY disappointing with only 3 members in attendance and 20 formal apologies. Consequently, only a read through of the agenda with some general discussion was possible. No motions were able to be voted on.

Also, Tia Rennie has stepped down as Facebook Administrator and acting Membership Officer. Tia is to be commended for the tremendous effort she put into drafting the administrative polices, managing our Facebook account and the re-structuring and maintenance of our Membership Database. We wish her well with her family, study and work commitments.

As stated below in our advert requesting more active volunteers, we need a good number of members, supporters and volunteers to help manage the operational activities of HOPE. Earlier this year, our vice-president Ngaire Winwood and our media officer Jeff Poole stepped down due to ill-health and now we have lost a very dynamic member in Tia Rennie who helped in a variety of positions. I urge you to consider "stepping up" and give some of your time and talents to help HOPE grow. Please contact the office to offer your support.

Lastly, we have some new Library acquisitions:

- lots of e-reports and several hard-copy books, manuals & a DVD
- *Mining and Coal Seam Gas Law in Queensland: A guide for the community*, by EDO Qld (x2)
- *Soil Food: 1372 ways to add fertility to your soil*, by Jackie French
- *Edible School Gardens*, book & DVD, by Leonie Shanahan

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Frank Ondrus, acting Office Manager & President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

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!)

Current vacancies include Facebook Administrator, Media Officer and Membership Officer.

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.

Date Claimers

Organic Gardening workshop series

hosted by SQIT (Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE) and HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment)

Keen to know how to improve your soils to grow healthy vegetables at home? SQIT's Horticulture team and HOPE are partnering to run three workshops on soil preparation, encouraging soil life, and compost.

When:

Workshop #1: WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SOIL—Saturday 26 October, 1.30-4pm

Workshop #2: WORMS, ORGANIC MATTER AND NUTRIENTS—Saturday 9 November, 1.30–4pm

Workshop #3: COMPOST MAKING—Saturday 23 November, 1.30-4pm

Where: SQIT Horticulture, entrance of Lindsay St and/or Campbell St, Toowoomba

Investment: \$110.00 for the 3 sessions

For more information or to enrol, please call Brian Sams, SQIT Horticulture on 4694 1558

Garage Sale Trail, 26 October 2013

Now is the time to mark Saturday 26 October in the calendar, register online and gear up for Garage Sale Trail: one big day of buying, selling and old school social networking this year expected to involve over 300,000 Australians.

Garage Sale Trail is the country's fastest growing community and sustainability event, providing an irresistible opportunity for local communities across the country to come together on the same day – Saturday 26 October – to have fun, make or donate some extra cash and form new neighbourly connections.

Free registration is now open at www.garagesaletrail.com.au for individuals, households, local businesses, schools, community groups, makers and creators, cultural institutions and charities.

Sellers who are hosting garage sales on the day are invited to put their sale on the trail and list key items for sale, while buyers can create a personalised 'treasure trail' of sales and items to check out on their mobile phone on the big day.

Registration via www.garagesaletrail.com.au includes a seller webpage as well as tips about how to grab a bargain

Letter to the Editor

In response to HOPE's enews bulletin #5, we received a letter from Harry Johnson, former coordinator at the Kingfisher Recycling Centre (KRC) The KRC is associated with the [Aspley Special School](#) and has been processing the local community's recyclable material since the school opened in 1974. What started with 'can' crushing has now grown into the world's largest school-based recycling centre which is a collaborative project between the school and the twenty volunteers which ensure it opens 24/7, every day of the year. This is a fantastic initiative that deserves to be replicated around the country!

Here are some extracts from Harry's letter:

"Dear Frank,

[...] It's great to hear that HOPE continues to thrive. [...] I enclose a few additional comments on some articles in the news bulletin.

Your Feature Articles "Waste Not, Want Not" and "Consumerism is Killing the Planet" are spot-on and with my interest in waste minimisation for many years I submit the following additional thoughts. Reduce, reuse, recycle. Paul Hawken in his excellent, very readable book "The Ecology of Commerce" suggests "we must take less (from the Earth), make less, waste less and want less". Given that a 1% reduction in consumption is equivalent to a 25% rate of recycling, a fundamental question is this: Are you prepared to change your wants to satisfy your basic needs? Your basic needs are: clean, carbon-constrained air, unpolluted water, uncontaminated soil and species diversity.

To reduce consumption, try not to choose what you can't reuse. Consider all the manufacturing inputs in every product, be it a re-useable plastic lunchbox, a single-use recyclable aluminium can or a single-use disposable nappy. The manufacturing inputs are locked into a multi-use, re-useable lunchbox; but are incurred every time you choose any single-use, disposable nappy product.

Manufacturing inputs of every product are as follows: materials, energy, water and air pollution, and waste generated during manufacturing processes. And when you throw something away, you dispose of it in the soil that grows your food, in the water you drink or if you incinerate it, you contaminate the air you breathe.

[...] We all live downstream. Everything must go somewhere. Our "children are 20% of the population, but 100% of the future" (Aaron Wood, Young Australian of the Year). And if we value our children as much as we value ourselves, a few suggestions that don't cost the Earth. Ideally durable materials should be used for reusable, durable products rather than single-use disposables which are better suited for a throw-away world. The very durable materials are glass, metals, most plastics and timber, etc. Lobby to ensure container deposit legislation (CDL) is introduced Australia-wide, NOW!

As has occurred in South Australia, CDL will result in far higher return rate of beverage containers. This will become an initial step before the optimum situation for beverage containers, the reintroduction of CDL containers designed to last, that is, the return of the refillable bottle. Glass bottles last for up to one million years. And yet we use glass beverage bottles only once, just to bow down to the demands of our beverage container manufacturers. How cool is that?

The introduction of volume based charging for the collection of garbage would certainly upset the waste management lobby. But if you consider the suggestion of a grade 3 child: "we should treat each other and the environment how we would like to be treated". Waste minimisation is a far more sustainable choice; particularly if it includes the waste minimisation of people who want to be valued, contributing community members, as occurs at Resource Recovery in Forster, Resource Cooperative in Hobart and the Endeavour Foundation in Queensland. A final simple step is to choose products without excess paper packaging (without a tree wrapped around them). As an example you can now buy toothpaste in a screw-top tube without the cardboard box, in preference to the toothpaste in a flip-top tube with the cardboard box.

Thanks again for your great newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Johnson

Former Coordinator of Kingfisher Recycling Centre, Aspley, Qld

Feature Article

Green Cars – Are they really green?

By Kara Daniell, HOPE supporter

Recently there has been much confusion regarding how environmentally friendly 'green' cars really are. The media has extensively covered reports and findings about the real carbon footprint of cars such as the Nissan LEAF and Toyota Prius Plug-in. New findings seem to suggest that the acclaimed environmental benefits are only based on the running costs and emissions of these cars. Factors such as the cost and emissions from the electricity used to power the vehicles and manufacturing emissions are not included in many ratings.

According to the autos editorial on MSN, the number one 'green' car for 2013 is the Nissan LEAF. Its fuel economy is moderate and has improved other car part technologies in order to reduce energy consumption. The list of cars below were also rated in the top 10:

- 2) Tesla Model S
- 3) Ford Focus Electric
- 4) Chevrolet Volt
- 5) Toyota Prius Plug-in
- 6) Ford C-max energy
- 7) Volkswagen Jetta Hybrid
- 8) Honda Fit EV
- 9) Toyota Avalon Hybrid
- 10) Lincoln MK2 Hybrid

The Australian government has created a [website](#) that helps guide people on the different options and ratings for 'green' cars available. Their 5 star rating systems are based on the combination of air pollution and green house ratings. The aim is to encourage people to make a smarter choice. Again this rating system does not take into account the manufacturing procedures of these cars. This area of manufacturing has many people concerned as it is theorised that it is less environmentally friendly than normal car construction.

Recent studies and media coverage have made alarming accusations about the footprint created by these cars. Ozzie Zehner published a review article in the journal IEEE in 2013, claiming to have analysed the impact of 'green' car construction. This review believes that certain parts of these 'green' cars are more environmentally costly and are not incorporated in the assessments and/ or ratings.

The magnets in the main traction motor usually incorporate rare Earth elements that are primarily mined in China. China's mining is believed to be very unsustainable and cause high emissions. The aluminium used in some cars to offset the weight of the battery in the outer shell of the car, may require more construction than steel. The way in which it is constructed may cause higher emissions. These are just two of the examples Zehner uses (2013).

This information provided by Ozzie Zehner does not appear to be strongly validated by statistical significance and is only a review of other people's findings. Nevertheless, he does raise some valid points in regards to how the 'green' cars are rated and manufactured. It is estimated that a 'green' car needs to run for 80 000 miles before it offsets its carbon footprint and becomes neutral (The Blaze, 2013).

People agree that there are many improvements necessary to advance 'green' cars. There is wide belief that car manufacturers are putting more effort into selling the car as 'green' than into actually creating environmentally friendly cars. The idea is there and currently in the long term these 'green' cars appear to be more environmentally friendly. Major comparisons between, 'normal' car manufacturing and running environmental costs, and 'green' car manufacturing and running costs need to be extensively analysed to help consumers make the 'smarter choice'.

It is important to continue improving the way in which manufacturing takes place. In addition, when powering your 'green' car how is it being powered? Is it through the electricity grid of your area which is supported by unsustainable power such as coal, or is it through your own solar powered system? Keeping pressure on the local councils and governments to invest in environmentally friendly power sources will help improve the success of 'green' cars.

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General

'Flawed' green cars guide under review

Electric cars score top marks for their environmental impact, but researchers say the Federal Government's vehicle rating system is flawed.

Driving green

Buying green is just the first step in reducing the environmental impacts of automobile use. Your choice of vehicle is most important, but how you drive and how well you maintain your car, van, or light truck will also make a difference.

What is a 'green' car?

There are many contributing factors in the so-called "well-to-wheel" scenario, including production issues and materials used, but for the sake of simplicity let's concentrate on what goes in and what comes out of the car – the fuel and the emissions.

Greening your outdoor living

Many households have a range of equipment for outdoor living, including swimming pools and spas, barbeques, lawn and garden equipment, and power tools and machinery. These all add to your household's energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and costs.

Tropical warming boosts carbon dioxide

By Anna Salleh, ABC

Tropical forests become less effective as carbon sinks as the region warms, a new analysis of trends over the past 50 years has found.

Climate Change Slowdown Is Due To Warming Of Deep Oceans, Say Scientists

Climate skeptics have seized on a pause in warming over the past five years, but the long-term trend is still upwards. A recent slowdown in the upward march of global temperatures is likely to be the result of the slow warming of the deep oceans, British scientists said.

GECKO – Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment Council Association Incorporated

GECKO was founded in 1989 when representatives of six local conservation groups joined together. They envisioned the organisation working for the care, protection and conservation of the natural environment and the improvement of the built environment so that it would become more ecologically sustainable.

Plastic Oceans

Each day millions of pieces of new plastic get into our oceans. But how does this plastic get there and what damage is it doing to the creatures that live there? This is a fantastic educational video for the kids. The adult version can be found [here](#).

Attacks on our environment? Not in my name

Tony Abbott went into the election promising to deliver some world firsts for Australia. **If he has his way, we'll be the first country in the world to scrap our carbon price and the first industrialised nation to remove an area from the World Heritage Listing, magnificent ancient old-growth forest in Tasmania.** Sign the petition to tell Tony Abbott: When you take environmental protection seriously I'll support you, but if you're going to start unraveling climate action and environment protection, **don't do it in my name.**

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[The European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)

It is not just Australians who are conscious about conserving the environment. Over in Europe the European Environment Agency (EEA) is busy spreading the word about sustainability and conservation.

The EEA is an agency of the European Union, whose task is to provide sound, independent information on the state of the environment. They are a major information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy. The EEA currently has 33 member countries.

The EEA helps the community and member countries to make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards environmental sustainability. They also keep decision-makers and the general public informed about the state and outlook of the environment.

On the EEA website, there are many handy tips for people around the world to access, which include ways help to reduce carbon emissions and waste, how to reduce energy consumption and electricity bills, different methods to save water and recycle more.

The EEA website also has a wealth of data on various environmental issues such as landfill rates, annual precipitation changes, greenhouse gas emission trends and air pollutant emission trends – all with a European focus.

For more information, please see the [EEA website](#). You can also like them on Facebook to get regular information and tips on your homepage.

Queensland News

[National Parks are important](#)

Only 4.8% of Queensland is defined by the current government as a National Park. The national Australia average is sitting on 9%. Our fear is that the State Government plans to open up National Parks to grazing, four-wheel drivers and resorts.

[QCC Submission to 'The Queensland Plan'](#)

If Queensland does not transform its economy away from a dependence on fossil fuels (exports and use), and if Queensland does not protect its iconic environment more effectively, then this State is in serious trouble.

[Reverse Garbage Workshops](#)

Reverse Garbage runs eco-art workshops in schools, at festivals, for community groups and at our urban environmental education facility located in our warehouse. Our workshops fuse art and environmental education and are suitable for a variety of audiences. Within the workshops, we teach which natural resources our materials come from and participants develop an appreciation of how consumption and waste impacts on our environment. The creative application of salvaged materials also encourages thinking outside the square and about ways that ordinary objects that are often deemed as rubbish can be reused. Check out the next series of workshops [here](#)!

[Next Reverse Garbage Exhibition](#)

Exhibitions –call for artists, craft workers and designers coming soon!. Have you ever wanted to exhibit your gorgeous handcrafted wares in the Reverse Emporium Gallery and Gift shop? The next Reverse Emporium exhibition is in the works, and we'll be calling for creators of gorgeous up-cycled works and wares to submit to the exhibition soon! If you'd like to be on the list to receive the callout, e-mail us at info@reversegarbage.com.au with "EXHIBITION CALLOUT" in the subject line and we'll add you to the list! Check out past exhibitions [here](#).

[Excursions to the Reverse Garbage Warehouse](#)

A visit to the Reverse Garbage warehouse is like an archaeological exploration into our consumer society. The warehouse hosts an inspiring collection of low-cost, interesting materials. For a small fee a Reverse Garbage staff member will take you on a tour of the warehouse and run a short educational talk about waste, the problems with landfill and what we do. We can tailor the talk for your group or project.

National News

Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network

Some of the most significant environmental wins of our time have been achieved through partnerships between philanthropy and the non-profit environment sector. Together, philanthropy and the non-profit environment sector have the capacity to be a force for change. The Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network is surveying environmental groups to help philanthropists understand capacity issues and build better relationships with the non-profit environment sector. The survey needs to be completed by Friday 27 September. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/envsector>.

Blue Mountain City Council Waste to Art 2013

Waste to Art is a community art exhibition and competition that shows creative works made from reused & recyclable waste materials. This initiative invites schools, community groups and individuals to turn rubbish into an art form of their choice, from sculptures to clothing. The purpose of the project is to encourage the concept of reduce, reuse and recycle whilst changing attitudes about waste and what is thrown away.

New wave: the art of ocean waste

In the face of the relentless tide of rubbish, artist Emma Washer is making whimsical treasure from trash.

Legal tide turns on erosion victims

A PhD candidate from the Southern Cross University says beach-front property owners are on shaky ground if they think they have a common-law right to protect their homes.

Solar energy growth could drive out coal by 2040, expert says

Australia could phase out almost all its fossil-fuel sourced electricity by 2040 if it doubled the current rate of take-up of solar energy, says Professor Ken Baldwin, director of ANU's Energy Change Institute.

World News

Sweden Needs More Trash, Because It Has Turned All It's Got Into Energy

What happens when a recycling plan is too successful? Sweden does such a good job recycling and turning its waste to energy that it has started importing trash from its neighbors.

Weed killers tied to depression in farmers

Farmers who used weed killers were more than twice as likely to be treated for depression than farmers who didn't use the chemicals in a new study from France.

Pesticides contaminating critters in California's national parks

Pesticides from California's valley farms are collecting in the tissues of a singing tree frog that lives in pristine national parks, including Yosemite and Giant Sequoia, a new study finds.

Coastal Antarctic permafrost melting

For the first time, scientists have documented acceleration in the melt rate of permafrost, or ground ice, in a section of Antarctica where the ice had been considered stable.

The Monsanto menace takes over

As more information comes out, it's increasingly clear that GM seed isn't the home run it's portrayed to be. It encourages greater pesticide use, which has a negative impact on the environment and our bodies. And whether or not GM food is safe to eat, it poses a real threat to biodiversity through monopolization of the seed industry and the kind of farming monoculture that inspires.

Arctic melt could cost global economy \$60 trillion: report

By Kiley Kroh

The rapidly melting Arctic is not only a looming climate catastrophe, but new research shows it could be an economic disaster, as well. In [findings](#) published in the journal Nature, economists and polar scientists from the University of Cambridge and Erasmus University Rotterdam found that the ripple effects of climate change in the Arctic — unlocking frozen reserves of methane that speed global warming and cause destructive and costly climactic changes across the planet — could deal a severe blow to the global economy.

[Video of the Day: Ask a NASA climate scientist](#)

By Sophie Vorrath

NASA has posted a YouTube video, inviting Joe Public to tap its brains trust and clear up any lingering confusion over the Earth's changing climate.

[Philippines plans to shift to 100% renewables in 10 years](#)

By Sophie Vorrath

The Philippines government is working with the Worldwatch Institute to transition the archipelago nation to 100% renewable energy over the next 10 years.

Resources

Book Reviews

[Future Park](#): *Imagining Tomorrow's Urban Parks, by Amalie Wright*

Invites readers to consider the future of parks in our cities and to find ways of making parks that are inclusive, accessible and resilient urban places. Including spectacular images of public spaces throughout the world, the book describes the economic, social and environmental benefits of urban parks, and then outlines the threats and challenges facing cities and communities in an age when more than half the world's population are urban dwellers. *Future Park* introduces the need to embrace new public park thinking to ensure that benefits continue to be realised.

[Here comes nuclear push](#)

Pandora's box contained plagues that bedevil humanity

Urging us to open our minds and listen to the facts, a collection of high profile environmentalists marshaled by film-maker Robert Stone are leading the way for an assault on our opposition to Nuclear Energy.

Of course, like any good scientifically motivated citizen, I welcome the opportunity to hear new evidence but until the evidence is presented and those basic concerns answered I will wholeheartedly resist another round of pseudo-science harnessed to the task of maintaining economic growth at all costs so that we do not have to confront the twin realities that there are too many of us and we are too greedy.

[ATA Publications](#)

The Alternative Technology Association has a number of publications, such as ReNew Magazine and Sanctuary, which can be accessed through their website.

[The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe Publications](#)

The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe has a large number of helpful hints and other booklets, such as:

- **e-Booklet No. 45 - Home Distillation of Essential Oils:** Essential oils purchased commercially are expensive. This booklet covers simple home-based techniques for extracting essential oils from your own garden using herbs and flowers. Covers: basic techniques, suitable flowers & plants, special blends, recipes for homemade eau-de-cologne, perfumed water. Price: \$12.00 [Download here](#)
- **e-booklet No. 61 - Harnessing Herbs:** Don't waste a thing of what's growing in your garden! Techniques for making use of and harnessing the potent properties of herbs and plants to appreciate all year round. Covers: growing and harvesting plus infusion, maceration, decoction and drying techniques. Recipes for: cosmetic waters & vinegar, culinary oils, infusions, herbal products (honey, butter, cheese), bath oils, and more. 32 pages \$12.00 [Download here](#)

A full list is available on the [website](#).

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