



Householders' Options to
Protect the Environment Inc.
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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #11 --- 27 November 2014

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. If you would like to discuss news items displayed or have letters for the editor please contact the office or <newsletter editor - hotlink>

Editorial

Good afternoon folks,

Charmaine Atkinson, our new Newsletter Editor, is overseas on holidays so I've stepped up to compile the November enews bulletin.

Office News highlights include HOPE's auspicing and co-management of the *Clean Up Kearney Springs* (sports-fields and associated parklands) event (25 Oct); and the report on our Annual General Meeting (8 Nov).

Our feature article this month is on the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) and the impending launch of the Toowoomba Branch of the organisation.

The *T-shirt Logo Competition* is being extended until 31 January 2015.

I'd appreciate your help in promoting this competition through your groups' newsletters.

The rest of the newsletter contains a good mix of news items and resource information for your reading pleasure.

If you have any comments about the content or would like to contribute articles in the future, please send your feedback to HOPE HQ at office@hopeaustralia.org.au or our Facebook page.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc.,
ph 07 4639 2135

Calendar of events

Search the [national environmental events calendar](#) and/or [national community calendar](#) for any events that might interest you.

DECEMBER

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

Position Vacant

The Office requires the immediate assistance of a sign writer and/or graphics designer to help with preparing signs and related materials for our 2015 calendar of projects, events and activities.

So, if you have some spare time and talents to share, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Annual Pledge Day

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approx. \$15,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

To make your contribution go to <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>.

Office News Report

Good afternoon folks,

This month's office report centres on the Clean Up Kearney event; our Annual General Meeting; and a special meeting to discuss "planned and proposed undertakings in 2015".

Due to a lack of entries in T-shirt Logo Competition, the management committee has agreed to extend the competition until 31 January 2015.

Please consider submitting an entry. Remember, the winning entry receives \$500!!

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135

T-shirt Logo Competition

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) is looking to lift its profile and to better 'market' itself at public events; and so, we are holding a "T-shirt logo competition".

The current logo is shown below. The design may be based on HOPE's charter OR a brand new concept! The logo should be attractive – with a catchy/meaningful message.



(current logo used on HOPE letterheads, etc.)

The logo is to be 15 cm square and can be made in any medium – remembering that it will need to be digitised for future use.

Submit your entry by Saturday 31 January 2015. There is a generous cash prize of \$500 for the winner.

Please email your entry to the HOPE office at office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Clean Up Kearney

Amy Parker, a year 10 student from Centenary Heights State High School, in partnership with HOPE, organised the Clean Up Kearney (Springs) event held on Saturday, 25 October.



(Amy Parker, event organiser)

Some 50+ volunteers cleaned up the entire Kearney Springs sports-fields and associated parklands precinct – with 3 large bags of recyclables collected and 11 large bags of rubbish.

Big thanks to USQ Change Makers Program for providing the \$500 grant; Centenary Heights SHS and Toowoomba Regional Council for their support and assistance; several companies who provided poly collection bags; and to the many volunteers who helped with the BBQ, etc. and the collecting rubbish on the day. Much appreciated - one and all.



(some of the clean-up volunteers)

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times by appointment only.

Phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming along for a chat or to access the library.

AGM 2013-2014 Report

HOPE held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 8 November at the home of Frank & Mary Ondrus (which also doubles as the HOPE Office).

Guest speakers included Mark Tranter who spoke about the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) and his plans to launch a Toowoomba branch in the New Year; Ross Campbell from Eco Blueprints who spoke about building code regulations and sustainable housing; and Cam Mackenzie who briefed us on the newly formed Darling Downs Environment Council.

A review of 2013-2014 was given by President Frank Ondrus with notable highlights being the monthly series of Community Forums and the annual Celebrating Our Environment Expo held in June at the University of Southern Queensland.

Election of Office Bearers for 2014-2015:

We farewelled 3 executive members – Terry Ryan (Vice President), Miriam Sharp (Secretary) and Joy van der Wyk (Treasurer) – and welcomed several new faces to the management team – Charmaine Atkinson (Newsletter Editor & Facebook Administrator), Shawn Dang (Website Manager) and Lin Boyle (Media Team).

A sincere thanks to departing members for your efforts over tears; and good luck to incoming members – noting that training will be provided to you in the coming weeks.

Lastly, we thank Jerry Coleby-Williams (from ABC's Gardening Australia program) for his continuing support as our Patron.

Executive Committee	
President	Frank Ondrus
Vice President	
Secretary	Kerry Kruger
Treasurer	Kerry Kruger
Newsletter Editor	Charmaine Atkinson

Admin Support Staff	
Office Manager	Frank Ondrus
Membership Officer	Barry Miller
Website Manager	Shawn Dang
IT Advisor	David Shipp
Media Team	Lin Boyle

1st Ordinary Meeting of 2014-2015

Following the AGM on 8 November, we held our first meeting for 2014-2015.

Some carry-forward items from 2013-2014 were dealt with, whilst the remainder were added to the agenda for the Planning Meeting scheduled for 22 November.

Items dealt with included:

- T-shirt Logo Competition deadline extended to 31 Jan 2015
- Sponsorship material endorsed – with kits to be distributed in early 2015
- GCBF “Composite equipment” grant application to be submitted by 30 November

Planning Meeting, 22 Nov 2014

Several members of the management team met on 22 November 2014 to discuss planned and proposed undertakings for 2015

It was agreed that HOPE would focus on the following aspects during 2015:

- Maintain (and strengthen where possible) our relationships/alliances with international, national, state (Qld) and local/regional partners
- Support key local/regional community events through the provision of information displays (and demonstration activities where appropriate)
- Develop a series of 8 to 10, 2 hour, monthly workshops providing practical advice and demonstration activity around the themes of self-sufficiency – both inside and outside the house (Toowoomba only)
- Seek funding to:
 - develop a series of Information Sheets → *new template required*
 - take a “Smart Living Workshop” program, in partnership with NEEN (National Energy Efficiency Network) on tour throughout the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba
 - see backlog of proposed projects (on file)

More details on the above matters will be presented in the January newsletter.

Bouquets & Brickbats

Congrats to European Union who are proposing to ban “many leading cereal fungicides due to their perceived effect on human health.” (Full article at <http://www.fwi.co.uk/articles/23/10/2014/14725/9/key-cereal-fungicides-may-be-banned-as-eu-tightens-rules.htm>)

Congrats to the management of the Sydney Opera House for investing in a technology upgrade to reduce energy use by 75% and enhance artistic quality of the concert hall. *(Perhaps all large property managers should consider in implementing similar energy efficiency measures.)*

More active volunteers needed

Volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity.

We are currently looking for people to assist with admin tasks; internet research and article writing; and media and marketing activities.

We are also seeking expert comment from academics and the like to assist in critiquing government and industry reports.

On-ground helpers are also required to assist with staffing information displays, and helping out at events.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au 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.

We also require a range of “issue campaigners/special interest spokespeople” to respond to the many requests and/or news items receive weekly.

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.

Feature Article

THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION (ATA)

The ATA (see <http://www.ata.org.au/>) has existed since 1980 to help spread the knowledge and benefits of alternate technologies. Its vision is to foster communities which grow and prosper in balance with natural ecosystems, living sustainably through the improved use of technology and practices to better manage our natural resources.

The ATA has 5500 members and 14 branches throughout Australia. A small group of Toowoomba members think it would be a good opportunity to provide Toowoomba and district residents with the opportunity to be more closely involved with this organisation and the knowledge that can be shared.

ATA PUBLICATIONS

ReNew Magazine

ReNew has been published by the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) since 1980. Each issue features renewable technologies such as wind and solar power, along with ways to make our homes, gardens and transport more energy efficient and sustainable.

Sanctuary magazine

The ATA also publishes Sanctuary magazine which provides inspiration and practical solutions for a sustainable homes.

ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

The ATA, working with partner organisations, has campaigned to defend the Renewable Energy Target. The organisation used its unique, specialist technical knowledge to advocate for long-term reform of the National Electricity Market for the benefit of consumers and environmental sustainability. The ATA helped organise Australia's first Community Energy Congress in Canberra, which showed there was enormous momentum for Australian communities to take control of their energy future.

The ATA recently published a report, What Happens When We Unplug? <http://www.ata.org.au/ata-research/towns-and-estates-could-unplug-from-the-grid-report> .

This examined the economic viable for households and communities in freeing themselves from electricity and gas networks using off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage systems.

PROJECTS

East Timor

Since 2003 the ATA has installed clean solar-powered lighting in homes, schools, community centres, hospitals and orphanages in remote villages. It is estimated that 20% of all houses in East Timor will never be connected to an electricity grid. A sustainable solar-powered lighting industry in East Timor is one step closer to reality after the ATA received \$250,000 for the Solar for Timor project from Google Australia. The funding will mean the ATA will go ahead with Solar for Timor, installing solar-powered lighting in 1000 homes in Timorese villages without electricity and training 50 local installers/technicians in the next two years.

Sunulator

The Sunulator is a detailed feasibility tool for community solar projects which uses half-hourly consumption and generation data over a whole year and calculates project feasibility over a 30-year time frame. Sunulator is specifically designed to assist community organisations to install solar systems via a range of potential investment options.

MEMBERSHIP

The ATA provides an online and over the phone advice service for members, member discounts from the ATA Webshop and other suppliers. Advice areas include:

- o Heating and cooling solutions
- o Energy efficiency
- o Water conservation
- o Solar power and other renewable options
- o Lighting options
- o Grey water
- o Solar hot water
- o Energy & water audits
- o Building and renovating for sustainability

❖ 1 star membership which includes 4 issues of Renew magazine is \$70 (\$50 concession).

❖ 2 star memberships include in addition a year of Sanctuary magazines.

For further information visit ATA at <http://www.ata.org.au/>

Toowoomba News

TOOWOOMBA ATA BRANCH MEETING

An initial meeting to form a Toowoomba Branch of Alternative Technology Association (ATA) is to be held at 10 am Sunday 18 January 2015 at 5 Goodward St. Toowoomba. This is for members of the ATA residing in the area. After the initial meeting it is proposed to hold a wider meeting, open to the general public with a view to gaining more membership of the local branch.

You can join the ATA at <http://www.ata.org.au/how-you-can-help/become-a-member>

If you would like more information or you are interested in the proposed Toowoomba branch of the ATA you may contact me on mark.tranter@elglaw.com.au.

Mark Tranter
Interim Convenor
Toowoomba ATA Branch
E: mark.tranter@elglaw.com.au

Amnesty International Toowoomba Group

Who are we? We're a group of activists from Toowoomba and surrounds, passionate about championing human rights as part of Amnesty International – a movement of 7 million people globally.

Meetings: Our regular meetings to plan campaign actions are at 5.30 pm, Third Thursday of the month at St James Church Hall, corner Mort and Russell Streets (entrance from Mort Street). Email us at aitoowoomba@gmail.com to be on our mailing list and receive meeting notices and news of upcoming events.

Letter-writing group: The group writes letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience and victims of human rights abuses. We usually meet for an hour at the Toowoomba City Library at 5.30 on the second Thursday of the month. Email us to check that the meeting is on.

We run events: We participate in Amnesty International Campaigns such as Refugee Rights, Stop Torture, and Write for Rights, and collaborate with other community organisations to promote human rights.

Contact us: Email aitoowoomba@gmail.com or phone convenor (Bryce) on 0408 060 474. Check us out on Facebook: "Amnesty International Toowoomba Group".

Appeal for Office Stationery

The Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Support (TRAMS) service is seeking donations of office stationery.

Specific items required are:

- Printer/copy paper
- White board markers
- Pens
- Manilla folders
- Wallet folders

If you can assist with some or all of these items, please drop off your donations to TRAMs at 123 Neil St, Toowoomba; or to the HOPE Office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

Date Claimer

TEAR Toowoomba meeting, 15 December 2014

There is a local TEAR ([formally](http://www.tear.org.au) The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund) group (www.tear.org.au) who meets monthly. The aim of this group is to connect with people who share TEAR's passion for achieving justice and ending poverty. We have a bible study, story and action at each monthly meeting. We arrange events for the broader Toowoomba Christian community throughout the year on topics relating to justice and poverty alleviation. Please contact Rebecca Hargreaves for more information and to join the mailing list beckymercer@ozemail.com.au.

An upcoming Toowoomba TEAR event is a Waste Educator Talk by the Toowoomba City Regional Council. We will be considering where and how our household waste is taken and recycled. Practical ideas on cutting down household waste will be included. It will be Monday 15th December, 10-11am at St Barts Anglican Church, 103 Stenner Street. Children and adults welcome.

National News

Green Army needs your projects!

(article from Landcare Australia)



The second round of applications for Green Army projects has just been announced by the Department of the Environment and closes on December 9.

Our Green Army Officer, Bruce Ashley, can help Landcare groups put together an application for a project in your area, so feel free to contact him with your project ideas or questions.

Landcare Australia kicks off a number of projects this month – at sites such as Arthur Boyd's *Bundanon* in the Shoalhaven region of NSW. The site will benefit from young people helping remove hardy weeds and at the same time gaining Landcare skills.

The Green Army Programme provides a fully equipped and trained team for a 6 month period to undertake natural resource management projects that benefit the community. Landcare group projects involving land rehabilitation, revegetation, and native habitat protection are well suited to host Green Army teams.

Further information on Landcare Australia may be found at <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/>

A notice to members and supporters

We need your help in spreading the philosophy and activities of HOPE to family, friends and work colleagues by on-forwarding e: correspondence and distributing literature.

Also, your support of, and participation in, projects, events and activities of HOPE and our colleagues would be appreciated.

Please consider writing "Letters to the Editor" on key environmental issues of interest or concern; and/or contributing articles to our newsletter, website or Facebook.

World News

Worldwatch Institute

Through research and outreach that inspire action, the Worldwatch Institute works to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world that meets human needs. The institute's top mission objectives are universal access to renewable energy and nutritious food, expansion of environmentally sound jobs and development, transformation of cultures from consumerism to sustainability, and an early end to population growth through healthy and intentional childbearing.

Founded in 1974 by farmer and economist Lester Brown, Worldwatch was the first independent research institute devoted to the analysis of global environmental concerns. Worldwatch quickly became recognized by opinion leaders around the world for its accessible, fact-based analysis of critical global issues. Research conducted by the institute is integrative or interdisciplinary and global in scope.

The Worldwatch Institute aims to inform policymakers and the public about the links between the world economy and its environmental support systems. The Institute's annual publications, *The State of the World* and *Vital Signs*, provide context for world events, spur global media discussion, and lay the foundations for strategic planning among business leaders, policymakers, academics, and engaged citizens.

Current projects include:

- **Governing for Sustainability**: Gathering visionary insights on today's global obstacles and tomorrow's solutions for sustainable governance
- **Vital Signs**: Providing the latest trends and insightful analysis to inspire changes needed to build a sustainable world
- **Renewable Energy Roadmaps**: Providing nations with guidance on policies that unlock renewable energy futures and establish effective deployment
- **Family Planning & Environmental Sustainability Assessment**: Networking researchers to document evidence that family planning brings environmental benefits
- **Sustainable China Project**: Helping decision makers both in China and around the globe better understand the environmental challenges and opportunities facing this vast country
- And more

To learn more about these and other projects, please visit our website: www.worldwatch.org

Worldwatch's success relies on the support of concerned citizens from countries around the world. Your financial support allows the Institute to produce compelling and groundbreaking research. Join us to develop and disseminate solid data and innovative strategies for achieving a sustainable society: www.worldwatch.org/donate

WWF 2014 Living Planet Report

According to WWF's 2014 Living Planet Report, Australia has the world's 13th largest Ecological Footprint per capita.

It is 6.25 global hectares per person each year, mostly made up of carbon emissions and the amount of land required for crops and grazing.

(http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/all_publications/living_planet_report/)

Collectively - <http://collectively.org/en>

Some 29 multinationals, some of them fierce competitors, have banded together along with non-profits to launch a global digital platform for millennials (i.e. demographic cohort following Generation X) dubbed Collectively, which is designed to connect people, inspire action and change to "make sustainable living the new normal".

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering business card sized adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

Resources

HSI Special Bulletin

In the lead-up to the recent World Parks Congress, Humane Society International produced a special bulletin on our wildlife habitat protection efforts over the last 20 years – *Conserving Australia's Threatened Ecosystems: An overview of HSI's Habitat Protection Program*.

Covering topics including: Threatened Ecological Communities; Natural Heritage Places; the Wildlife Land Trust; marine protection; wildlife corridors; legal actions; biodiversity hotspots; and outlining required Government actions, we hope you find the contents informative.

[Click here to download a PDF copy of the publication.](#)

What is The Australia We Love Project?

The Australia We Love Project is a Places You Love (PYL- <http://www.placesyoulove.org/>) public engagement program that launched with the release of *The Australia We Love Report* on 10 November 2014.

The Australia We Love Project (<http://www.placesyoulove.org/australiawelove/>) includes:

- Full Report: *The Australia We Love* – A report on the key issues affecting nature and society in Australia
- Public Brochure: snapshot of key data from the full report and profiles of everyday Australians looking after the places they love.
- 5 X 2 minute videos – *everyday Australians looking after the places they love*.
- Social content on call to action re: the **National Nature Conversation 2015**.

These products are designed to be useful as background materials and for use to promote the issues that you focus on. If you have a river campaign, use the information on the state of Australian rivers, including in a global context, in the report at any stage.

Blueprint for a Healthy Environment and a Productive Economy

Transformative, long-term economic and institutional reforms that Australia must implement if it is to create a healthy environment with a productive economy.

This blueprint describes the magnitude of the environmental challenges we face, establishes the case that it is possible to grow the economy and protect the environment, and describes long-term institutional and economic reforms that we believe are essential to achieve this.

Routledge Environment and Sustainability -

- <http://www.routledge.com/sustainability/> - the leading global publisher in the inter-disciplinary field of Environment & Sustainability studies offering a broad array of titles from accessible introductions and supplementary readings to cutting-edge research and reference in areas as diverse as Sustainable Development. New titles include:

Forward Thinking: Sustainability

We are pleased to present Forward Thinking, a virtual collection of FREE content. Browse free articles, books and chapters with a focus on sustainability [here](#)

Free resources from Stephanie Alexander Foundation



You don't have to be a Kitchen Garden Program School to access the fantastic resources produced by the Kitchen Garden Foundation.

The Foundation has a new [free resources](#) page with lots of kitchen and garden activities for school settings and the home environment. You can access teaching resources; 'How To' resources suitable for school or the home; as well as recipes, garden and kitchen activities.
