



Householders' Options to
Protect the Environment Inc.
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens,
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD
4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135;

Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #12 --- 14 December 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,

This edition notes some important Date Claimers for 2015; as well as feature articles on The Earth Charter, Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR - headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, India) and Australia 21.

Our T-shirt Logo Competition has been extended to 31 January. Why not put your artistic talents to good use and submit an entry. 1st Prize is \$500 (see page 2 for full details).

The office will close on Friday 19 December 2014 and reopen on Monday 12 January 2015.

Enjoy the great festive season! See you in 2015!

*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](#)

Date Claimer

**SEE Sustainable Experience, 18-20 June 2015,
Brisbane, QLD**



SEE: S = Social, E = Economic, E = Environment

Protecting Queensland's Built Environment

SEE Sustainable Experience 2015 is a showcase of products, solutions and education focussed on protecting Queensland's built environment.

To held at the Brisbane Showgrounds from the 18th to 20th June 2015, SEE Sustainable Experience is refreshingly different from other events or exhibitions, as it will tie together case studies with sustainable solutions whilst offering integrated educational options within a value-led and relaxed networking environment.

SEE Sustainable Experience will educate visitors on how to build smarter and live better.

2015 DATE CLAIMERS

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SOILS

01/01/2015 - 31/12/2015, Global

WORLD WETLANDS DAY: WETLANDS FOR OUR FUTURE

02/02/2015, Global

BUSINESS CLEAN UP DAY

24/02/2015, Australia

SCHOOLS CLEAN UP DAY

27/02/2015, Australia

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

01/03/2015, Australia

NATIONAL RIDE2SCHOOL DAY

13/03/2015, Australia

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

21/03/2015, Global



Office News Report

Good evening folks,

Apart from tidying up loose ends and doing some much needed filing, the office has been quiet these past few weeks ... very welcome indeed!

*A **big** thanks to all who have helped throughout the year. Your efforts have been much appreciated.*

The office will close on Friday 19 December 2014 and reopen on Monday 12 January 2015.

Have an enjoyable and safe Christmas holiday period.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135

Wow! An overseas agency using the HOPE acronym.

Recycling initiative from HI (Hostelling International) Canada



(One of our friends spotted this sign recently whilst holidaying in Canada)

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 .

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@hopeaustralia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

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.

Feature Articles

The Earth Charter

(<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/>)

Written by Shawn Dang, HOPE Member

The Earth Charter is a universal expression of fundamental ethical principles to foster sustainable development, and the Earth Charter Initiative is the global network that embraces, uses and integrates the Earth Charter principles.

Mission

As the dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, a massive extinction of species, as well as injustice, poverty, ignorance, and violent conflict widespread. The Earth Charter aims to provide an ethical framework for protecting the earth, restoring a healthy biosphere, using the finite resource in a sustainable way, as well as creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world.

The Earth Charter seeks to inspire people with a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The mission of the Earth Charter is to establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to help build a sustainable world based on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace, giving a broader conception of what constitutes a sustainable community and sustainable development. It acknowledges that our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and that people can forge inclusive Solutions.

History

The drafting of an Earth Charter was part of the unfinished business of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. In 1997, the Earth Charter Commission formed an international drafting committee. The meeting at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in March, 2000, the Commission approved a final version of the Earth Charter.

Goals

The Earth Charter aims to build up an ethical ground with common goals and shared values in the midst of our diverse beliefs, cultures, religions and sectors of society. It also calls for

people all around the world to endorse it, use it and apply its principles in their home, workplace, and local community.

The goals of the Earth Charter Initiative are:

1. To promote the dissemination, endorsement, and implementation of the Earth Charter by civil society, business, and government.
2. To encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter in schools, universities, faith communities, and many other settings.
3. To seek endorsement of the Earth Charter by the United Nations.

Principles

The Earth Charter addresses that all of us, the people of Earth, should declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations. With this aim, it affirms a set of interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.

There are 16 principles in total under four sections, which are listed below. Please visit the official website of Earth Chart (<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/>) for detailed elaboration for each of the principles.

I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

In order to fulfil these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:

II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's

regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.

8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.

10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.

11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.

12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.

IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.

14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.

15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.

16. Promote a culture of tolerance, non-violence, and peace.

What we can do

The Earth Charter Initiative is inviting all of us to endorse its principles, to reshape our minds to understand our responsibilities to the future of the world, to join in the interconnected effort to spread the objectives and value of the Chart, and to utilize the Chart to make wise choice in everybody's life. Also the Initiative calls all governments, non-government organization, institutions, civil societies and businesses to participate for better collaboration to bring forward more creative and effective solutions.

To support the Earth Charter Initiative or to learn more about it, please visit the website <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/>.

About Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) - <http://www.wotr.org/>

Watershed Organisation Trust was established in 1993. Initially established to support a large scale community led watershed development program for poverty reduction called the Indo-German Watershed Development Program (IGWDP), over the years, WOTR has entered diverse sectors and grown institutionally and geographically.

Headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra, India, WOTR has a physical presence across 7 Indian states, namely, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh (Seemandhra), Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha.

WOTR's goal is to ensure food, water, livelihoods and income security together with a growing quality of life to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities on a sustainable and equitable basis.

Today, WOTR is engaged in several sectors; the key ones are:

1. Integrated Watershed Development/ Ecosystems Management
2. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
3. Climate Change Adaptation
4. Capacity Building and Training
5. Sustainable Agriculture and Integrated Farming Systems
6. Agro-Meteorology
7. Biodiversity
8. Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment Generation
9. Empowerment of Local Self Governance Institutions
10. Gender Relations and Women Empowerment
11. Alternate Energy
12. Integrated Groundwater and Energy Management
13. Information Technology and Management Information Systems (IT-MIS)
14. Action Research, Documentation, Publications
15. Policy Advocacy

WOTR reaches out to the whole realm of stakeholders (from villagers to NGOs, government, donor and foreign agencies) through Trainings and 'hands-on' Capacity Building. Lessons learnt from research and studies help frame policy and praxis.

With applied research as a constant companion, WOTR continually rethinks conventional development and has introduced Systems Thinking and Complexity Analysis in the program design. Therefore, WOTR develops pedagogies, strategies and tools, moving from activity based project design to Framework Based Management, for large scale implementation and up-scaling.

WOTR has successfully facilitated 230 NGOs and government Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs), which are important partners for outreach and up-scaling of sustainable initiatives. Additionally, WOTR has published over 100 articles/studies and books, 87 educational and training films, and 12 Participatory tools for wide-scale adaptation.

In its 20 years since inception, Watershed Organisation Trust has implemented over 1992 watershed development and climate change adaptation projects, covering over 1.33 million hectares, thus, impacting over 1.8 million people. Its involvement in over 10,250 women's Self Help Groups (SHGs), micro-finance, trainings and other initiatives have benefitted over 130,000 women. Similarly, over 350,000 people from 27 states in India and 62 countries have participated in WOTR's training and capacity building programs.

[Australia21](#)

Australia21 is a not for profit research company, founded in 2001. We address complex real-world issues that are likely to have significant social, health, economic, security and environmental impacts on the future of all Australians. These include navigating the challenges associated with issues such as asylum seeker policy, illicit drugs and climate change. Our approach is guided by evidence and critical thinking in the chosen area. We are not affiliated with any political party or interest group. Almost all of our work is pro bono. We rely on donations and philanthropic grants to operate.

Our [Board](#) comprises leaders from a range of disciplines – including medicine, the physical and social sciences, economics and law. They bring diverse executive experience from the public and private sectors, academia and the media. The Chair of our Board is Mr Paul Barratt AO, former Secretary of the Department of Defence and former Executive Director of the Business Council of Australia.

We generally only deal with 'wicked' problems. These are complex problems for which there is no definitive solution. There is often disagreement about the very nature of the problem, the problem may change over time, and policy interventions may bring unintended consequences. Such problems go beyond one organisation or one discipline and as they cannot be solved they can only be managed. Examples include climate change, inequality and illicit drugs policy.

Because successful management of wicked problems involves drawing on the information, insight, ideas and energy of as diverse a range of expertise and experience as possible, we bring together the nation's best creative thinkers, researchers, business leaders and policy influencers. Using interdisciplinary collaborative approaches we use sound research and fresh thinking to discover new frameworks for understanding and dealing with the challenges facing Australia. We have a strong commitment to youth engagement and have established two positions of Honorary Youth Adviser to our Board. The recently established youth wing of our organisation, YoungA21, facilitates the regular involvement of young people in our work and supports the development of youth initiated and managed projects.

We believe the challenges facing our country and our world are greater than ever before so our nation must find new ways to ensure a viable future for coming generations. In the public interest we make the results of our investigations and research widely available to policy developers, industry, media and the public.

For more detailed information about Australia21 and its activities, visit their website at www.australia21.org.au.

Food for thought

Geoengineering – what is it?

A straight-forward explanation can be found at *Explain That Stuff* - <http://www.explainthatstuff.com/geoengineering.html>

Toowoomba News

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.

Another way of doing money – Condamine Catchment Community Exchange (CCCE) (aka bartering or LETS – Local Exchange Trading Systems)

A growing network of people in Australia -and the around the world - “exchange goods, services and skills” in community exchange systems or LETS.

CCCE is a not for profit, local currency system that puts people in touch with others who have goods or services they wish to trade. We “pay” for what we receive by offering back to the community goods and services that we can provide.

For further information contact CCCE at:
email cond@communityexchange.net.au
phone Janet 0428 891 277
<http://condamine.my-local-lets-ces.org>
www.communityexchange.net.au
www.facebook.



Resources

Elementa Science

- <http://elementascience.org/>

Open Science for Public Good

Through *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, we aim to facilitate scientific solutions to the challenges presented by this era of accelerated human impact.

We are committed to the timely publication of technically sound, peer-reviewed articles that address interactions between human and natural systems and behaviours.

We believe that [open access](#) is well aligned with the goals of science, and embrace the concept that basic knowledge can foster sustainable solutions for society. Our non-profit collaboration is driven by the desire to accelerate scientific discoveries, and for all content to be open in the interests of rapid dissemination of research.

As a non-profit initiative, the support of our collaborators BioOne, Dartmouth, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Michigan, and the University of Washington ensures that we keep our focus on the publication of timely, high quality research to advance the intellectual agenda of science.

Knowledge Domains



[Atmospheric Science](#)

- [Detlev Helmig](#), *University of Colorado Boulder*



[Earth & Environmental Science](#)

- [Joel D. Blum](#), *University of Michigan*



[Ecology](#)

- [Donald R. Zak](#), *University of Michigan*



[Ocean Science](#)

- [Jody W. Deming](#), *University of Washington*



[Sustainability Transitions](#)

- [Anne R. Kapuscinski](#), *Dartmouth*



[Sustainable Engineering](#)

- [Michael E. Chang](#), *Georgia Institute of Technology*

National News



Unsung heroes of sustainability

Many sustainable design ideas and innovations, products and philosophies are effective, super-simple and cost-neutral. Romilly Madew sheds some light on these unsung heroes. [Read more.](#)

the Change Agency

- <http://www.thechangeagency.org/>

The Change Agency is an independent social movement education initiative. We work with community organisers and activists in the Australia Pacific region to help people win social and environmental change.

We develop, collect and share tools to help activists and community organisers define and achieve their goals. We research social change to learn what works, and draw on action research to inform our facilitation and educational work. Our two major projects currently are the [Community Organising Fellowship](#) and the [Campaigners Toolkit](#).

Our website provides access to our growing collection of training resources, activist research including [case studies](#) and [articles](#), outlines of our [workshops](#), a [calendar](#) of training opportunities, and links to other [activist education websites](#). We regularly update our catalogue of favourite [books](#) and circulate a free monthly social change [enews](#) with updates on activist education and research resources, projects and opportunities. Subscribe [here](#). We also provide a [mentoring](#) and advisory service for community organisers.

We lead workshops with people working for a just, sustainable and peaceful world. If you are interested in being more effective in your work or inspired and informed by others who are working for change, let's start a conversation.



International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day (IVD) is mandated by the UN General Assembly and is held each year on December 5. It is a day for volunteers and volunteer based organisations to celebrate their efforts, to share their values, and to showcase the difference they make in their communities.

On 5 December 2014 join us in acknowledging and enhancing people's participation, engagement and voice, in shaping our nation and the world we want through the spirit of volunteerism.

10th Australasian Plant Conservation Conference (APCC10)

Our biennial conference was held in Hobart from the 11th - 14th November 2014 and included a fascinating variety of guest speakers, an innovative technology practical session, three exciting field trips and some 'behind the scenes' tours of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. Overall the quality of the presentations was excellent with a number of the invited speakers highlighting the importance of developing and expanding our communication skills in promoting biodiversity issues with the broader public. Risk taking and "thinking outside the box" were also emphasised by a number of the speakers. Adapting to a rapidly changing world in terms of managing plant diversity is going to require effective, quick and strategic thinking with a certain amount of risk taking where we don't have all the answers. A more detailed conference summary will appear on our website soon and many of the presentations will be published in the next two editions of *Australasian Plant Conservation*. A big thank you to all the hardworking staff and volunteers at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, as well as all our sponsors, without whom the conference would not have been possible.

The following items were gleaned from Urban Environment News (<http://urbanenvironmentnews.com/>)

[The Australia We Love – a Comprehensive Survey of Australia's Natural Systems](#)

The Places You Love alliance has completed a [landmark survey](#) of Australia's environment. More than any time in our history, humans are impacting the health and function of nature, with significant implications for the well-being and prosperity of Australian society.

[Australia's Biosecurity Future](#)

The CSIRO report [Australia's Biosecurity Future: preparing for future biological challenges](#) uses strategic foresight to identify the major biosecurity trends and risks that Australia may need to respond to over the next 20-30 years.

[Urban water futures 2014](#)

In [Urban water futures 2014](#) the National Water Commission provides an updated overview of the urban water reform context and assesses the current performance of the urban water sector across Australia.

[Surviving Earth \(Australian documentary\)](#)

[Surviving Earth](#) is an independent Australian documentary featuring Prof. Tim Flannery, Prof. Ian Lowe, Dr. Ian Dunlop, Prof. Paul Ehrlich and Bindi Irwin among others on the topics of resource depletion, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and overpopulation.

[The Australian Renewable Energy Race: Which States are Winning or Losing?](#)

This [Climate Council report](#) provides the latest research on which Australian States and Territories are winning the race to renewables – and which are not.

[Coastal Climate Change Blueprint tool](#)

Is your coastal community prepared for the effects of climate change in the marine environment? Test if you are prepared with the [online climate change blueprint tool](#).

Clean Up Australia day is 1 March Registrations now open!

In 2015, we are celebrating 25 years of volunteer action to clean up Australia. Since the national event started in 1990, Australians have donated more than 27.2 million hours taking their streets, parks, bushland and waterways on Clean Up Australia Day, removing an estimated 288,650 tonnes of rubbish from 145,754 sites across the country.

Together we have made this community event the largest of the Southern Hemisphere. So let's put ourselves in the picture in 2015 to break a record for this special 25th year!



How Does the L.I.F.E (Landcare Is For Everyone) Website Work?

Landcare is for everyone – and it's never been as easy

to get involved! [Check out](#) the new video to find out more about how the L.I.F.E website works and how you can use it as an invaluable tool to help make a difference.

Find out about the latest happenings in your area and put your events in the calendar to let people know what's going on or get the lowdown on the latest funding opportunities. You can even find an innovative environmental campaign to get involved in, come to the website when you need an extra set of hands for your project or promote opportunities and skills you have to offer.

Share your L.I.F.E story or nominate someone for the Landcare Hero Honour Roll – we even have resources based on the L.I.F.E characters for you to download and use!

Video courtesy of [Rocket Productions](#).

World News

[Fossil fuel follies: Massive subsidies underpin oil, coal exploration](#)

by Giles Parkinson

Subsidies for fossil fuel exploration in Australia reach \$4 billion, and \$100 billion in G20 countries, despite vows to phase them out. New report labels this a "double folly" because the new reserves are both uneconomic and unsustainable.

Working Collectively to inspire change

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

Many of today's millennials (18-34 year olds) choose to live differently to other generations before them. They value their own wellbeing just the same, but look to do so in a way that minimises any negative impact this might have on people or the environment around them. This isn't a trend for the future. Generally this generation demands workplaces, brand and organisations that align with these values, now. According to Globescan Research on Aspirational, published in June, 95% of millennials said they believe we need to consume less to preserve the environment for future generations; 50% said they trust global brands to act in the best interests of society; and 90% said they encourage others to buy from socially and environmentally responsible companies.

It was this desire to live sustainably, in every sense of the word, that inspired Collectively. Collectively is a global media platform designed to empower this generation, and all of us, to bring sustainable living into the mainstream – without having to give it a label. Collectively's aim is to create and curate compelling content that shows how a sustainable lifestyle can be enriching and aspirational by highlighting the people, places and ideas making it so. It aims to bring these stories to a global stage, in order to collectively shift long term demand and solutions that are better for people and the planet while also providing readers with initiatives they can support today.

The idea for Collectively was sparked by discussions at the World Economic Forum on how to inspire and accelerate the shift to more sustainable behaviour. Catalysed by this, Unilever, BT Group, The Coca-Cola Company, Marks & Spencer and Carlsberg came together to sponsor Collectively and have

since been joined by more than 25 of the world's leading multinational companies including Google, Facebook, Nike, PepsiCo and Nestlé. Many of the partners have put aside their competitive differences to join this coalition, which they hope will continue to grow to include more NGOs, youth organisations and other brands.

Collectively brings together a unique working group. It was developed with the support of VICE Media's creative services division, VIRTUE, global sustainability non-profit Forum for the Future, and Purpose, leaders in building social movements. It is managed on a day-to-day basis by a completely independent editorial team who publish stories, information and solutions from the worlds of fashion, food, design, transport, technology and more. Readers are also encouraged to submit their own ideas.

Ultimately, Collectively aims to change the record on sustainability by transforming the way it is seen and discussed. It hopes to inspire action and support innovation by acting as an enabler to allow us to weave sustainable choices into our everyday lives. Above all it wants to galvanise a collective response to this challenge in order to create the scale needed to make this the new normal.
