

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Re: World Heritage Day, 18th of April 2018

The 18th April 2018 marks the 45th anniversary of *World Heritage Day*. In April 1982, the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) conceived the *World Heritage Day* idea, and it was approved in 1983 by the 22nd The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) General Conference. The theme for 2018 is 'Heritage for Generations'. This event reminds us of the importance of the preservation of cultural and natural sites all over the world, both for current and future generations.

As of July 2017, there are 1,073 sites in the world in 167 countries, of which 832 sites are cultural, 206 natural, and 35 mixed properties. Italy has the largest number of sites with 53, followed by China (52), Spain (46), France (43), Germany (42), India (36), Mexico (34) and United Kingdom and British Overseas Territories (31).

Australia has nineteen heritage sites, mainly natural sites, of which five are in Queensland:

- Gondwana Rainforests of Australia (1986, 1994)
- Australian Fossil Mammal Sites (Riversleigh / Naracoorte) (1994)
- Fraser Island (1992)
- Great Barrier Reef (1981)
- Wet Tropics of Queensland (1988)

Householder's Option to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) would like to emphasise the importance of preserving World Heritage sites and to understand their importance especially from the environmental perspective. The preservation of our natural and cultural treasures is paramount to preserve the unique ecosystem that Australia has.

World Heritage Day represents an occasion to think about nature and its connection with culture. It also can be the occasion to visit Queensland's heritage sites to admire and learn more about them in person.

To know more about the International Day for Monuments and Sites <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/868/>

For Australian Heritage Sites: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/au>

To keep up-to-date with ICOMOS activities and news: <https://www.icomos.org/en/>

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(Written by Alessio Claudi, HOPE volunteer (Qld))