



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

Friday, 3 August 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

National Sea Week, 1st to 9th September 2018

Householder's Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) invites you to be part of National Sea Week happening 1st to 9th September 2018. We are a marine nation and we own one of the largest water territories in the world. This is a wonderful chance for us to learn about the relevancy of the educational issues involving our marine environment; and to appreciate the sea.

National Sea Week is Australia's major national public awareness campaign. This year's theme, as part of Ocean Literacy Principles, is 'Ocean is a major influence on weather and climate'. We want to encourage everyone to learn more about how we can be equipped with knowledge on how we can protect our maritime legacy, as it generates employment and affects our food and resources, lifestyle and recreational opportunities.



For Australians, the seas and oceans are part of our marine lifestyle. However, we have been over-using and not protecting them enough. Our human activities have altered the ecosystem for the worst. Our unsustainable coastal development and overfishing are taking its toll on the water bodies- which leads to climate change. As a result, the water cycle is also affected as wet areas get wetter (floods) and dry areas get drier (droughts). Ocean acidification is worsening due to our increasing emissions and this in turn affects

the productivity of our fisheries, aqua-culture, tourism and coastal protection. Our seas and oceans are not given enough time to recover and weather further environmental stresses. We need to provide a safe haven where ocean wildlife can recover.

Let us harness the collective power of people as we move together beyond fossil fuels- the culprit that's killing our beloved seas and oceans. Beyond supporting rallies for politicians, commit to building a fossil-free world; this is high time we learn how we can live eco-sustainably and work towards a fossil-free world. Our future generations can then continue to enjoy our marine legacy.

A 23-year-old Dutch inventor and entrepreneur Boyan Slat has developed a Great Pacific Sea Garbage Patch set to be deployed full-scale in 2020, with the first cleanup launch system scheduled for mid-2018. While most of us would not be able to do on such an epic scale, we can start small with each other. We can buy local, support eco-sustainable fisheries, avoid big fishes and eat small fishes instead. To reduce carbon emissions, we can adopt healthy alternatives- minimise driving (for example we can walk, cycle, carpool), adjust our vehicle maintenance habits, use solar panels, buy energy efficient appliances (that also lead to savings in the long run).

Small changes can make a huge difference.

This is also a chance to connect with groups like HOPE Inc. to learn more about how we can reduce negative impact on the seas by adopting better lifestyle habits. Check out HOPE Inc.'s webpage at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/>. National Sea Week is campaigned by Australian Association for

Environmental Education. You can go to <http://www.aeee.org.au/event/seaweek-2018/> for more on how you can be part of National Sea Week.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135
Media release written by Judy Tan, HOPE volunteer Qld