



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

### HOPE E-news Bulletin 2020 #12 --- December 2020

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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au). Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

#### Editorial

Hi everyone,

Well, we did it! We survived what has been a rather chaotic year and as it draws to a close, we consider how we can continue to act in protection of our environment and improve our advocacy of environmental issues.

This month we have International Volunteer Day (5<sup>th</sup>) where we celebrate the efforts of volunteers worldwide in contributing their time and efforts to furthering important causes. We take this opportunity to ask our readers to consider volunteering with HOPE or suggesting it to someone you know who may be interested.

This month's issue features a good cross-section of articles from our volunteer researchers and as always, we welcome your thoughts on these articles or on any issues you would like to raise.

A final note of thanks to our readers for your continued interest and support of the HOPE Newsletter - we look forward to bringing you more articles in the new year.

Happy holidays,

Daniela Dal'Castel, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

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### 2020 National/International Events Calendar

December

- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
- 5 [World Soil Day](#)
- 10 [Human Rights Day](#)
- 11 [International Mountain Day](#)

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### HOPE Office News --- December 2020

Good morning folks,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, it's a time for us to reflect on the HOPE achievements to date; and start thinking about what's in store for us for 2021.

**Having said that, our end-of-year social dinner will once again be held at the City Gold Club, Toowoomba, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December. If you are able to join us, please RSVP by 3<sup>rd</sup> December as seats are limited to 20.**

**Lastly, the office will be closed from 5pm Friday 18 December 2020; and will reopen at 9am on Monday 11 January 2021.**

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135, [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)

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## HOPE's call for more Volunteers!

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level 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 time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include: Researchers; Media Officers; and Publications Team members.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

### Current volunteer positions available are:

- Researchers – required to review and comment on a range of discussion papers, policy documents and reports provided by government departments, business and industry organisations and NGOs.
- Media Officers – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
- Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets
- Website Content Maintenance Assistant – required to perform weekly updates and routine maintenance as provided by Office Manager

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## Benefits of volunteering

Volunteering is of great benefit to the community. It also benefits you personally in a range of ways:

- Gain work experience and develop new skills – Boost your career prospects. Update your resume with a whole new skill set.
- Make new friendships and connections – Meet like-minded people. Create professional networks.
- Enjoy new social & cultural experiences – be immersed in all kinds of environments, people and causes.
- Be a part of your community – Discover, connect, make an impact and have fun.
- Enjoy better physical and mental health – Studies show volunteering makes us healthier and happier.
- Develop personally and build confidence – Expand yourself. Enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment.
- Act on your values – Try something new. Follow your passions and interests.
- Step out of your comfort zone – Challenge yourself in a supportive environment.
- Stand up for what matters – Be inspired and be an inspiration.
- Make a difference – The feel-good factor of supporting Queensland communities.

Enjoy the benefits of being a volunteer today!

To volunteer with us, please visit [www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/volunteer-form)



BAKE GIFTS  
INSTEAD OF  
BUYING GIFTS

With Christmas fast approaching many of us are thinking about what presents we want to buy our family and friends for Christmas.

What we spend considerably less time thinking about is whether the person actually needs the item we want to buy for them.

Instead of wasting earthly (and financial!) resources on a new plastic thing-y that looks pretty and does nothing, consider putting some love and effort into your gifts and bake something yummy!

Cookies, muffins, slices, pie, or fudge are awesome edible gifts that everyone loves.

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## Feature Articles

### Fifty percent of our natural environment is the sky

By Marnie Ogg, Director - Australasian Dark Sky Alliance ([www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org](http://www.australasiandarkskyalliance.org))

Have you ever gazed at the night sky and wondered where we came from? Why we are here, and if we're alone in the universe? I can almost guarantee you said yes.

For tens of thousands of years, humans have looked up to the night sky. Our ancestors saw patterns in the stars, used dark patches to create animals and knew intimately where the *wandering stars*, or planets, would be the next night. Unless it was cloudy, this was a bog standard, ordinary night of entertainment.

It is now, extraordinary. Something so rare, most will never experience it.

Bit by bit, we've removed ourselves from our night sky heritage to such a degree that we have almost no contact with it. Do *you* know what phase of the moon we're at now?

The endangered pygmy possum does. So do microbats, giant dragons, heath monitor lizards and logger head turtles. The light and dark cycle is their trigger to maintain their survival activities. Add one streetlight, one billboard, one upwardly lit palm tree, and this is disrupted.

That bright light outside your bedroom window may annoy you, but consider this, nocturnal animals don't have block out blinds or sleep masks.

Increasingly scientists are understanding just how detrimental artificial light at night really is. With links to pollination reduction, cancers and sleep disorders in humans, and low reproduction rates in species, ecologists, biologists, neurologists are joining astronomers in the call to policy-makers to drastically reduce light pollution. Artificial light at night is one of the most common and fastest growing types of environmental pollution, increasing at 6% per year globally, and identified as a key threat to biodiversity.

Australia's First Dark Sky Park was designated by the International Dark-Sky Association in 2015. Now there are three in Australia and a number of other communities raising interest in how they can help preserve the environment day *and* night. Places that are designated as Dark Sky Friendly, commit to good lighting principles that mean you consider when and how you use light – not that you have to live in the dark.

What is most rewarding about creating a dark sky friendly places is that it is remarkably easy to do, everyone can do it and the results are instantaneous. One person can significantly change the environment.

So, what does 'good lighting' mean and how can you help?



These six Best Practice Lighting principles have been written for industry, and developers, but are just as applicable in your own backyard or home environment.

Just like limiting your plastic usage, it requires just a little bit of thought and a small commitment to preserve our night-time environment. Next time ask yourself "Do I really need this light on now, or can I make the switch?"

*The Australasian Dark Sky Alliance is a not for profit, volunteer led, charity committed to educating the community and policy makers about light pollution. Join us as a membership or make a donation to help leave a legacy of the night.*

## National News



[www.youthfoodmovement.org.au](http://www.youthfoodmovement.org.au)

By Sofija Belajcic - HOPE researcher NSW

### Main Aims

Youth Food Movement Australia (YFM) is a national, volunteer-led organisation whose main purpose is to help young people develop skills, knowledge and experience around food. YFM empowers young peoples to take what they've learnt and apply it in their own lives, by creating a food system that works for them and fits around their lives. YFM aims to fill in the gaps in our 'food literacy.' In other words, YFM runs food education programs to teach people about where their food comes from, how its grown, and how to cook it. Ultimately, by arming the youth with food knowledge, YFM connects them with the land and young people come to better understand the challenges farmers are facing.



### Major Achievements:

#### The Pocket Power Map

This initiative produced by the YFM with the support of the City of Sydney lets consumers find environmentally friendly food businesses. Users may navigate the map and click on the icons to find local businesses in their area.

#### Upstart

Upstart is a leadership program which gives young people the opportunity to co-create real-world community food projects. It lays the foundation for young people to change the world of food and agriculture and make a meaningful contribution to Australia's food future. The Upstart program consists of a Bootcamp, a project development night, online training, group-organised learning opportunities and hands-on experience in project design and delivery.

#### Give Food Waste the Flip

In 2018, YFM launched an initiative to reduce food waste. During the five-week program participants received a food waste reducing mission in their email inbox, along with tips from Australia's best chefs on how to use food waste in a creative way.

### Current Projects/Campaigns:

#### Cookluck Club

The Cookluck Club is a get-together designed to teach people to use whatever ingredients they have in their fridges to cook up a tasty meal. Instead of the usual get-together where everyone brings a plate of food, for the Cookluck Club everyone brings their own ingredients to cook a meal together. Sign up and you'll receive guidance on how to organise a Cookluck Club, advice on prepping and what to cook, and other cooking tips.

#### SpoonLed

SpoonLed is a social workshop which runs for one day and is designed to teach young people to use their food waste in creative new ways. The workshop combines food saving tips with leadership skills and sets the path for young people to live more sustainably.

To find out more about Youth Food Movement Australia, follow them on Facebook at @YFMAustralia. Also, don't forget to subscribe to YFM at [www.youthfoodmovement.org.au](http://www.youthfoodmovement.org.au) so you can receive all the latest news and events.



## International News



The **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing center that develops and shares research, information, and innovations to empower people in the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas: Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. ICIMOD with headquarters in Lalitpur, Nepal is an independent organization governed by a Board of Governors consisting of one representative from each of the eight regional member countries, and funded by some 15 countries and donor organizations.

It was established in 1983 to address problems of economic and environmental development in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas (HKH). The center provides a regional platform where experts, planners, policy makers, and practitioners can exchange ideas and perspectives towards the achievement of sustainable mountain development. It facilitates knowledge exchange across the region, helps customize international knowledge and tailor it to the region's needs, and bring regional issues to the global stage. It works with the vision of men, women, and children of the Hindu Kush Himalaya enjoy improved well-being in a healthy mountain environment. Its mission is to enable sustainable and resilient mountain development for improved and equitable livelihoods through knowledge and regional cooperation.



The research team surveying Rikha Samba Glacier with GPR in 2015. Source: ICIMOD website

Being accountable to the mission and vision, the organization's work is guided by seven strategic results which help to measure progress toward realizing strategic framework:

- **Widespread adoption of innovations developed by ICIMOD and partners to adapt to change leading to positive impacts for women, men, and children** --- Work along with partners to develop and test new approaches to address change and build resilience, and base this on reliable and well-documented analyses.
- **Substantial advances in the generation and use of relevant data, knowledge, and analysis** --- Use and share of data and information by communities, government agencies, practitioners, and scientists.



Engineers from equipment manufacturers Thermo Fisher Scientific India trained 16 men and women from partner agencies in Nepal and Bhutan to operate, maintain, troubleshoot, and calibrate instruments in air quality stations.

- **Significant advances made in approaches and knowledge that promote gender equality and inclusive development** --- Adopt a rights-based approach for equitable human development and gender equality and seek to contribute towards closing structural inequalities by promoting social inclusion and gender justice across all sections of society.

**Significantly developed human and institutional capacity** --- Work to enhance greater human and institutional capacity to upscale positive change in the areas of expertise.

- **Policies and practices considerably influenced by the work of ICIMOD and its partners** Enhance the interface between science-based evidence, policy and practice and seek to positively influence policies and practices across the HKH.

- **Enhanced regional cooperation related to sustainable mountain development** --- Foster regional cooperation by contributing to cross-border technical collaboration and by promoting policies and plans that bring countries together, for example, on regional flood warning systems or biodiversity corridors. Facilitate the

establishment and continuation of collaborative programs among the countries and promote greater awareness among downstream populations of the services they receive from mountain areas, and the need to value and compensate for these services.

- **Global recognition of the importance of mountains and the need for more global resources made available to mountain people to ensure improved and resilient livelihoods and ecosystems** --- Promote the mountain agenda in global policy arenas and work with bodies such as the IPCC, UNFCCC, CBD, the Ramsar Convention, and UN organizations and processes.

ICIMOD believes in a future where the region's mountain people can experience enhanced livelihoods, equity, and social and environmental security; where they can adapt to climate, environmental, and socioeconomic change; and where future generations of mountain and downstream populations can enjoy the benefits and opportunities afforded by the region's natural endowment. It foresees a future in which the role of the HKH as the water tower for close to two billion people, as a cultural and spiritual hub, as the home of global biodiversity hotspots, as a significant ecological buffer zone, and as a source of resources and services for mountain and lowland people is upheld, valued, and recognized globally and regionally. The activities range greatly from hands-on research and piloting of solutions, to policy implementation with governments, to mountain advocacy on the global stage.



Hon. Minister Ram Bir Manandhar, State Minister for Urban Development, of Nepal inaugurating the conference on solid waste management. Source: ICIMOD website.

The efforts over more than three and a half decades have allowed to develop expertise and a foundation of work across themes critically important to the HKH mountain agenda - ecosystems services, geospatial solutions, livelihoods, and water and air. With one foot in research and one foot in development, ICIMOD is an organization unlike any other which works towards sustaining resources, enhancing livelihoods and valuing culture across the HKH. It is an intergovernmental institution which shares knowledge, facilitate and deliver positive impacts on the lives of those in the HKH through regional programs and initiatives. It protects the pulse of the planet through various work approaches.



Complex geographies within the HKH benefit from leveraging the power of Earth observation and geo-spatial technologies. Source: ICIMOD website.

The organization work to influence and advance policy, create knowledge, share information, raise awareness, connect the landscape, embrace diversity. With a vast array of partners, the work is organized in form of Regional Programmes. Each in their own way, the six programmes integrate knowledge, orient research into use, and deliver impacts across essential to sustainable mountain development in the HKH and the planet. The Regional Programmes build on ICIMOD's deep history of engagement are formulated to deliver strategic results; promote transboundary cooperation; meet capacity-building needs in the region; and support long-term testing, piloting, and monitoring of innovative approaches.

Six programmes include: Adaptation and Resilience Building, Transboundary Landscape, River Basins and Cryosphere, Atmosphere, Mountain Environment Regional Information Systems, Mountain Knowledge and Action Networks. With a deep history of work across a broad range of issues enabling sustainable development in the complex environment of the HKH, the center have been protecting the pulse for over three decades.

Different fields of issues on which the organization work and is successful include: Disaster Risk Reduction, climate change and hydrological modelling, air, snow and glaciers, ecosystems, tourism, migration, water resource management, urban water issues, scaling up and scaling out, spring and solar pumps, shifting cultivation, pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, resilience, governance, wetlands, rangelands, biodiversity, forests, remote sensing and GIS, community based flood early warning systems, snow, permafrost, glaciers, glacial lake outburst flood, air quality, clean energy access, water, gender, mountain livelihoods, climate change, and agriculture.

More information on the organization and its current works can be found at [www.icimod.org](http://www.icimod.org)

# GREAT TRANSITION INITIATIVE

## TOWARD A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION AND PRAXIS



The Great Transition Initiative ([www.greattransition.org](http://www.greattransition.org)) is an online forum of ideas and an international network for the critical exploration of concepts, strategies, and visions for a transition to a future of enriched lives, human solidarity, and a resilient biosphere. By enhancing scholarly discourse and public awareness of possibilities arising from converging social, economic, and environmental crises, and by fostering a broad network of thinkers and doers, it aims to contribute to a new praxis for global transformation.

Correspondingly, GTI maintains a cosmopolitan outlook that is attuned to critical questions of scale and the ways nested systems operate across global, regional, and local levels. It gives voice to diverse contributors motivated by both ethical and pragmatic concerns about the need for revised ways of thinking, learning, acting, and being. It aims to deepen understanding of values and cultural dimensions of global change, along with social, economic, political, and scientific aspects of a Great Transition.

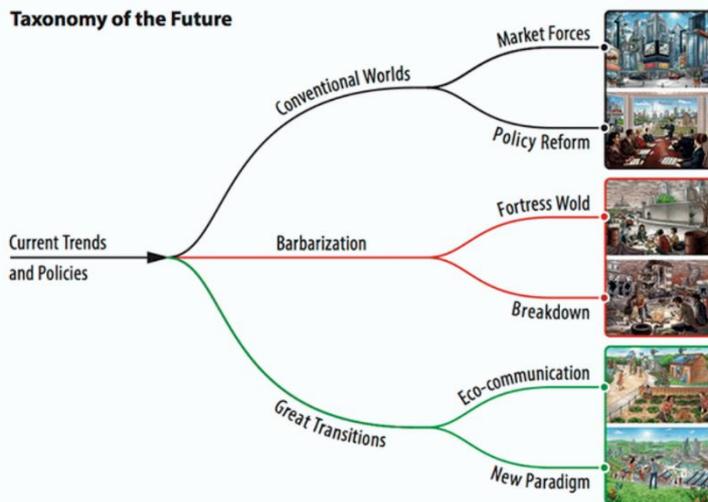


### Journey of an Idea

GTI's roots extend back a quarter century to the early discourse on the meaning and implications of sustainable development. Then, as now, sustainability's abstract call for a just and enduring mode of development found broad adherence, but little consensus on specific goals and strategies. Views have broadly fallen into two distinct approaches: reform and transformation.

The reform strategy relies on market adjustments and policy measures to hasten the deployment of green technology and the reduction of poverty. Critics of this mainstream approach find it inadequate for the task, as it treats the symptoms of unsustainability instead of the underlying disease. They fear it will be unable to overcome powerful countervailing forces: the growth imperative of conventional development, the resistance of vested interests, and a spreading consumerist culture. Advocates of a transformational strategy thus seek deeper cultural shifts, a new sustainability paradigm to drive and guide development.

### Taxonomy of the Future



In 1995, prompted by these concerns, Gilberto Gallopin and Paul Raskin convened the Global Scenario Group (GSG), an international and interdisciplinary body for illuminating the requirements for a transition to sustainability. Under the organizational aegis of the Tellus Institute and the Stockholm Environment Institute, and with support from diverse foundations and United Nations agencies, the GSG conducted a series of studies and simulations to illuminate global challenges and possibilities. It summarized its insights in the valedictory 2002 essay *Great Transition: The Promise and Lure of the Times Ahead*, which set a broad historical, conceptual, and strategic framework for contemplating the global future.

The time had come to engage a far larger group in clarifying the meaning of a Great Transition and moving from ideas to ideas-in-action. Therefore, in 2003, the Global Scenario Group segued into a new effort: the Great Transition Initiative. GTI became a worldwide network of hundreds of engaged thinkers and thinking activists, supported by a coordinating unit at Tellus, which provided a forum for enriching the scenarios, sharpening the theory of change, and spreading awareness.

In 2014, the Tellus Institute reimaged and relaunched GTI, seeking to extend its reach and influence. In its new phase, GTI serves as a formal journal of Great Transition studies, offering a rolling series of essays, viewpoints, reviews, and interviews. The GT Network continues to expand and diversify as a forum for engaged thinkers and thinking activists to advance together toward a vision and praxis for a decent planetary civilization. The journey continues.



### Christmas gift ideas at CSIRO Publishing!



No idea what Christmas gift to get that gardening fanatic in your life? CSIRO Publishing has got you covered with a wide range of great gardening and horticulture books for all the green thumbs, wildlife watchers, curious kids and lifelong learners on your list.

Check out CSIRO Publishing's Gift Idea Catalogue at [www.publish.csiro.au/catalogues/gift20](http://www.publish.csiro.au/catalogues/gift20) and use promo code **GIFT20** at the checkout to redeem these festive discounts as well as free shipping when you spend over \$50!

### Gift Ideas Catalogue Highlights:

