



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 2020 #03 --- Mar 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Welcome to March 2020 - it's a big month with Clean Up Australia Day kicking off the month and the month ending with Earth Hour.

Once again, we feature a good cross-section of articles from our volunteer researchers.

As always, we welcome your thoughts on these articles or on any issues you would like to raise.

Lastly, this month's Office News contains reports on February's Strategic Planning Meeting (8th) and our half-day Earth Laws Forum (24th).

Regards,

Karolina Firman, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2020 National/International Events Calendar

March

- 1 [Clean Up Australia Day - https://www.cleanup.org.au/get-involved-as-a-community-member](https://www.cleanup.org.au/get-involved-as-a-community-member)
- 3 [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 7-15 [World Parks Week](#)
- 8 [International Women's Day](#)
- 8-14 [National Ground Water Awareness Week](#)
- 21 [International Day of Forests](#)
- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 28 [Earth Hour](#)

April

- 18 [World Heritage Day](#)
- 18Apr-19May [National Trust Heritage Festival](#)
- 22 [Earth Day](#)

May

- 3-9 [International Composting Awareness Week](#)
- 5-7 [OZWater'20](#)
- 9 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- 18-24 [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 [World Turtle Day](#)

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 a 15cm x 4cm sized 'strip' 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.)

HOPE Office News --- March 2020

Good morning folks,

Wow! It's March already! The pace with which the year is moving is amazing.

February news -- We held our Strategic Planning Meeting on the 8th; Andrew Nicholson attended the National Climate Emergency Summit, Melbourne (14th – 15th); and lastly, we held a successful half-day Earth Laws Forum on 24th. Lots of planning and preparation went into each of these events. Reports on the Strategic Planning Meeting and the Earth Laws Forum will be posted on our website shortly. Andrew's report on the National Climate Emergency Summit is attached for your reference.

March news - The Queensland Local Government Elections are being held on Saturday 28 March. And, we propose to survey candidates in the Toowoomba Region Council elections on their environmental platforms.

Other significant office highlights include:

- Our new computer system and printer was installed on 29 Jan ... the same day the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) grant money were received. Payment for the new computer was made on 4 Feb; and the GCBF grant acquitted later that day.
- We have accepted the Dalby Men's Shed invitation to provide an environmental information display at their Living Well Expo on Thursday, 19 March 2020.
- 11/01 Submitted online application to Communities Environment Program (CEP) with Steve Cupitt's technical expertise.
- 14-15/02 Andrew's attendance at National Climate Emergency Summit, Melbourne
- 14/02 Issue nationally e: Media Release promoting Clean Up Australia events 2020
 - ➔ 21/02 Interviewed by Goolarri Radio (WA) re: Clean Up Australia events
- 24/02 Earth Laws Forum

Actions taken Strategic Planning Meeting

- The executive committee and admin volunteers are invited to provide feedback using 'Reply All' to matters raised in Office Updates; and/or to raise new items.
- Our 'social media' platforms are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Please 'like' us and start submitting your own posts on environmental issues of interest or concern to you.
- Queensland Council of Social Services (QCROSS) has been asked to comment on incorporating sustainable housing features into social housing developments.
- Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba have been contacted in regards to the status of their earlier proposal to establish a regional Environment & Interpretive Centre.
- The re-introduction of a Helpful Hints section for our newsletter should start with the March edition.
- Earth Laws Forum 24 Feb 2020 – Media release and promotional flyer have been issued. Volunteers required to help with registration, afternoon tea and photograph the event.
- Getup contacted re HOPE's national petition in support of UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Email invitation sent to key national envNGOs and others to provide overview articles for our e: newsletter.
- We contacted local community radio station 4DDB re possible regular Environmental radio program.
- Issued draft Youth Summit proposal for consideration by HOPE Executive and Admin Support Team.
- Issued e: request to expand Partnership/Alliance connections.

Highlights of Earth Laws Forum, 24 Feb 2020

20 people were on hand to hear presentations from Australian Earth Laws Alliance (ALEA), Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) Qld, Animal Liberation Queensland (ALQ) and Andrew Nicholson (one of our long-term members and academic researcher).

All 4 speakers spoke of the need of government departmental staff to make better use of existing environmental laws and pursue prosecutions for willful breaches of the law.

A full report of the Earth Laws Forum and copies of presentations will be posted on our website shortly.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph. 07 4639 2135, www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Volunteer Profile



Alessio Claudi – HOPE Admin Volunteer

Hi everyone! My name is Alessio and I have been a volunteer for HOPE since 2018. I help with the Facebook page and with media/public relations. My main goal is to see new opportunities for HOPE; and to increase HOPE's audience.

I have a Bachelor of Arts with majors in History and International Relations, an Honours Degree (First Class) in International Relations, and I am currently studying for a Graduate Diploma in Public Relations.

I have a keen interest in recycling and environmental preservation. I joined HOPE because it is a great way to volunteer for an organisation that really makes the difference and in which there is always a chance to learn something new.

HOPE is run entirely by volunteers, its newsletters have lots of high-quality articles, and tips that are a great resource for anyone interested in protecting the environment.

If you wish to propose any possible organisations for alliances/partnerships; and/or any other suggestions for HOPE to pursue, please do not hesitate to let us know through our office phone 07 4639 2135, or by emailing us at office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Volunteers needed

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; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

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. 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.

Current volunteer positions available are:

- **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
- Membership Officer – assist Office Manager with recruitment, training and management of volunteers; also responsible for maintaining Membership database (using Excel Spreadsheet)

Feature Articles

A Quest for the Perfect Nest

Written by Alex White, Griffith University



Seeing a plywood nesting box tucked amongst the branches of a tree or hoisted around its trunk is a familiar sight to many Australians - but how effective are these well-intentioned makeshift homes at housing Australia's unique and diverse wildlife? Australia has some of the highest rates of land clearing in the world. While we flatten forests for urban development and agriculture, a quarter of our animals still rely on mature trees (and hollows) for nesting, breeding, feeding and raising their young.

Considering that many of these species are also crucial pollinators, it's unnerving to realise how little we are doing to rectify the problem. And while nesting boxes are implemented with good intentions, I would argue that they are a modest attempt at compensating for colossal habitat loss and degradation. The majority of nesting boxes are put up by your average Australian, including neighbourhood efforts or local bushcare groups. This definitely highlights a love and passion for Australian wildlife that is common in your typical Aussie household. Some councils also require nesting box installation as a means of offsetting any tree lopping in the area.

So, what's wrong with good old plywood nest boxes? Well, it's beginning to be understood that these structures have some serious setbacks that eco-conscious individuals and wildlife lovers should be aware of when installing one in their backyards.

1. The first major issue with traditional nesting boxes is their lack of insulation. Think of a poorly constructed home that is scorching in summer and struggles to retain heat throughout winter. The same can be said of the wooden nesting box. Some have been recorded as having temperature fluctuations of up to 8C! This puts particularly young birds and mammals at risk of overheating, freezing to death, or having their parents simply abandon the nest.
2. When it comes to longevity, nest boxes don't have much going for them. Water damage, extreme weather events, mould, destruction by wildlife (looking at your Sulphur-crested cockatoos) and a susceptibility to being overrun by ants, means ongoing replacement and maintenance of these boxes is required.
3. Finally, box design is suboptimal when it comes to specific nesting requirements. Most nesting boxes follow a relatively generic blueprint which means they may not be suitable or attractive to species local to the area. (e.g. microbats prefer narrow openings they can fly up into from below). This is one of the reasons nesting boxes may sit unoccupied for months and sometimes even years.



Given that there are some intrinsic limitations to nesting boxes, it's reassuring to know that there is a viable alternative that was borne out of rather unlikely origins - the commercial arborist industry, in QLD and NSW. Artificial tree hollows created out of tree trimming or felling are becoming a mainstream alternative to straight-up tree lopping. Whether utilised by councils, vegetation management, or individual homeowners and neighbourhoods, they are a huge step towards reconstructing more natural and practical habitats. Artificial tree hollows boast several qualities that make them more suitable than generic nest boxes - they remain insulated, natural-looking and withstand the test of time.

Plywood nesting boxes are the perfect concept - now let's embrace some fine-tuning and the overall improvement of these vital refuges for our urban wildlife.

Opinion piece on the Australian Government's Perspective on Climate Change

By Dan Bielich, HOPE researcher WA, B.Sc. – Climate Science, M.S. Env, completing B. Ren-Eng.

Currently the governments perspective is to umbrella climate change as a singular problem, that needs a singular solution. However, the problem at hand is sufficiently more complex and multidisciplinary. A "one size fits all" policy is far more than sub-optimal; in ways it is decelerating progression. Instead of addressing the issue head on, these so called "solutions" are a bleak attempt to hush the "greens" and the "hippies", when in fact the consequences of climate change will affect every organism on earth that needs water and food for survival, including those that wish not to believe that climate change is real. The governments subsidy-based interventions can prove ineffective without the proper guidance and support. The governments redistribution of resources is not a sufficient condition for pursuing either economic or social development objectives. The government needs to listen to what the people actually need, rather than pursuing their own political agenda in an attempt to stay in power.

We often hear the phrase that the future is upon us, in many ways it is true. The Armageddon consequences of climate change that fueled the media's alarmist approach will become a reality, but not in the way many of us believe. It will not be like a movie, where there is a beginning, a middle and an end. This is not a war with nature, this is guerrilla warfare between humans, and the consequences of their actions. Nature is an entity of life, that reacts to only the stimulus that it is provided. This concept can cross many disciplines, including our own lives, all of which goes back to Darwin's theory of Evolution. Catastrophic events that we as humans will endure throughout the next few decades will be sporadic, they will be arbitrary, and until it is our own government fighting for their lives, unfortunately we cannot trust the government to do what is needed. Humans learn from their own experience, not from other people's experience. Many of those that don't believe that climate change exists will still suffer just as much as those that do believe it exists, the only difference being that one will seek change, and the other will find someone to blame. The question no longer is whether it is real or not, nor whether we have caused it or not. Climate change is changing and the world is changing with it, if we don't adjust our behaviour with it, like many organisms before us, we will be left behind.

The fires that are currently overthrowing the Christmas holiday cheer in Australia may not be directly resulted from climate change. Bushfires are a natural phenomenon, and even though, many of these fires are more related to mental illnesses of certain individuals, rather than climate change, the severity of the bushfires can be attributed to climate change nonetheless. The record-breaking temperatures, the decrease in rainfall country wide, you don't have to travel very far to see the physical and social consequences of the changing climate. It is conferences such as this one that the government must consider when making policy changes. Organisation, companies, and people that want to make a difference, cannot do it if their hands are tied by our outdated legislative infrastructure.

Future

The future is easy to be dismissed when we believe it's so far away. For example, running out of water, or overpopulation, or critical demand for food.

However, when you catch the news, and realise that towns, and cities are beginning to run out of water, is when you ask yourself how bad is it going to get? Yeah, it may be far away, as it was in South Africa last year. However, only one year later towns in rural QLD began to ran out of water, and had to get water trucked in. All of a sudden, the problem is no longer a 20hr flight away, but in our backyard.

The population is increasing, yet our fundamental resources for survival are decreasing, specifically food and water. Our diets as humans has proved to be destructive in the past, and why practices must adapt. We see a growing demand for meat, seafood, fresh fruit and vegetables worldwide. It doesn't take a genius to see that something has to give. It's intimidating to think about the future in this perspective, however, burying our heads into the ground isn't going to change anything either. So, what is the right approach?



GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

To be frank, we need politicians to adopt a bipartisan approach to focus on the root causes of these problems. A lot of the major environmental problems have lingered on because of government's inaction in addressing root causes. During the conference it was discussed that the government should focus on stimulating the involvement of regional areas in Australia.

Possible solutions and considerations that were mentioned that the government should evaluate are:

- The need to tailor policies and investments to regional conditions and advantages
- Uniform policy settings won't work in all contexts
- Planning helps regions move towards their preferred future
- All levels of government are (or should be) interested in regional development

- Policy should therefore address impediments to a region taking advantage of its comparative advantage as embodied in its natural resource endowment through the application of: a. Technology b. Capital mobility c. Labour mobility
- Enhancing planning and foresight capability for regions
- Policy does not involve applying the same solutions to all regions

An active plan based on regional development, specifically what is needed is a:

1. A long-term development strategy whose objective is to reduce persistent inefficiency and inequality in specific places
2. The production of bundles of integrated, place-tailored public goods and services, designed and implemented by eliciting and aggregating local preferences and knowledge through participatory political institutions, and by establishing linkages with other places
3. Promoted from outside the place by a system of multilevel governance where grants subject to conditionalities on both objectives and institutions are transferred from higher to lower levels of government
4. Is a long-term strategy aimed at tackling persistent underutilisation of potential resources and reducing persistent social exclusion in specific places through external intervention and multi-level governance.
5. The essence of a place-based approach is that it relates to a specific but not static scale and footprint and assumes plasticity in institutional arrangements.

The prominent challenges of a regional development program are:

1. Regional governance is a major issue – Who makes the decision at the regional level in the context of multilevel governments?
2. Who implements the decisions – do they have the skills?
3. The multi-level government issue may result in the slow introduction of policies in support of a Smart Specialisation Strategy
4. When a strategy has been identified, it may sometimes be questionable if an appropriate budget can be put in place
5. What is the appropriate size of a region to be considering the adoption of a Smart Specialisation Strategy?
6. Will the adoption of a Smart Specialisation Strategy impact on funding from higher levels of government?
7. Barriers exist because there is a lack of: • Communication • Education • Processes • Balance between management & employees.

GENERAL CHANGES NEEDED

On a broader perspective of government initiatives, the Australian PM should be looking into:

- Investing in connectivity and infrastructure
- Foster the return of skilled individuals to regions
- Digital connectivity needs to be affordable
- Need to support inclusion and liveability
- Policy should endeavour to achieve the best allocation of resources possible
- Changes to employment may be unevenly distributed
- Providing affordable services will be crucial
- Strong potential for collaboration
- Tailoring policies to regional differences
- Investing in human capital and adaptive capacity of business and communities
- Investing in connectivity and infrastructure
- Institutional reform for development
- Managing risk
- Supporting collaboration with and beyond regions
- Investing in inclusion and liveability outcomes

As we can see there is a specific concentration on regional areas, and their role and potential to be a key attribute to this transition of energy. We also see a cry for the restructuring of the current legislation in place. Many companies that are involved in assisting this change in energy dependency all have shown the government lack of initiative in updating the current system to promote the change to green energy. In the end we see the same story, where brilliant people and innovative companies are ready in arms with the technology needed to push this country into the green future, only to be disarmed by the government's inability to do what is needed for the Australian people, country and its future. All of the suggestions in this paper are from the speaker's presentations at the SEGRA conference.

National News



Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) - <https://citizenscience.org.au/>

Scientific research in the era of Big Data - Citizen Science

What is citizen science? Briefly, scientific research and monitoring tasks involving non-professionals is called "citizen science". It has become the mainstream strategy for studying geological evolution processes, ecosystems, and biodiversity. You may only have heard of this term in recent years, but in fact, citizen science has a long history. Prior to the 20th century, it was common for people to conduct scientific research without any scientific background - Darwin, Edison and Mendel are among those people. None of them received systemic training before engaging in scientific research. The term 'scientist' was coined about 1833, so before that, those involved in scientific research could simply be considered ordinary people.

A citizen scientist is not unusual to see in your life. Bird watchers, for example, would report their bird counts to 'Birds Queensland'. Divers in Australia would dive on the Great Barrier Reef and upload underwater images to 'Virtual Reef Diver'. All those who contributed data and share their science-related content are citizen scientists. These are all very typical cases of citizen science research. Anyone can participate in crowdsourcing projects and collect analytical data. Big tasks are broken into smaller pieces that people without specific science background can smoothly perform. As technology and social media evolve, citizen science is becoming an integral part of contemporary scientific research. Conducting scientific research through the internet is becoming a reality.

Citizen science can increase people's participation in science and engagement in research that may affect government policy on the environment. For instance, 77% of Australians align their identity with the Great Barrier Reef, meaning people are willing to unite and do everything in their power to protect it. So far, 222.6k images have been uploaded and analysed, helping scientists model the Great Barrier Reef, counting the total coverage of corals, predicting future environments, and letting administrators make well-informed decisions. As an activity involves both the social and scientific world, citizen science research breaks the traditional method of data collection, thus leading to better policy decisions. We need the consolidated efforts of citizens, scientists, and policymakers to create the evolution of the relationship between science and policymaking in the context of big data and flexible internet technology.

Australian Citizen Science Association (ACSA) is a member-based community that supports, informs and develops citizen science. ACSA 's citizen science programs cover a wide range of biological, ecological, and chemical projects, many of which have been in operation for decades. Furthermore, the Australian Citizen Science Association actively works to:

- engage more people to participate in citizen science.
- promote inclusive partnerships.
- ensure the development of tools and resources to support further practice.
- ensure the value and impact of citizen science and its outputs are realised.
- establish ACSA as an effective and trusted citizen science organization.

It provides an excellent platform for anyone interested in citizen science. You do not need to have a science degree to work with the scientists. By joining this platform, you can jointly achieve scientific research goals to influence future policymaking process.

For further reading:

ACSA Strategic Plan: https://citizenscience.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ACSA-Strategic-Plan_January-2016.pdf

ACSA Chapter Protocols: https://citizenscience.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/ACSA-Regional-Chapters-protocol-September-2019_FINAL.pdf

Birds Queensland: <https://birdsqueensland.org.au>

Virtual Reef Diver: <https://www.virtualreef.org.au>

To be involved in ACSA visit: <https://citizenscience.org.au/join-now/>

International News



Future Earth - <https://futureearth.org/>

'Future Earth is a global network of scientist, researchers, and innovators collaborating for a more sustainable planet'

Overview:

Future Earth is a problem-oriented organization that provides a theoretical framework and action for sustainable development. It is a large-scale scientific project initiated by the International Science Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and jointly led by the UN Environment Programme and other organizations. The mission of Future Earth is to respond to the challenges brought by global environmental changes to various regions, countries and societies, strengthen the communication and cooperation between natural sciences and social sciences. Furthermore, Future Earth provides the necessary theoretical knowledge, research methods and techniques for global sustainable development.

International Future Earth programme sets three themes for research:

- **Dynamic Planet:** understanding how the planet is changing;
- **Global Development:** on deploying integrated science to address urgent sustainable development needs; and
- **Transition to Sustainability:** to be more sustainable in the long term.

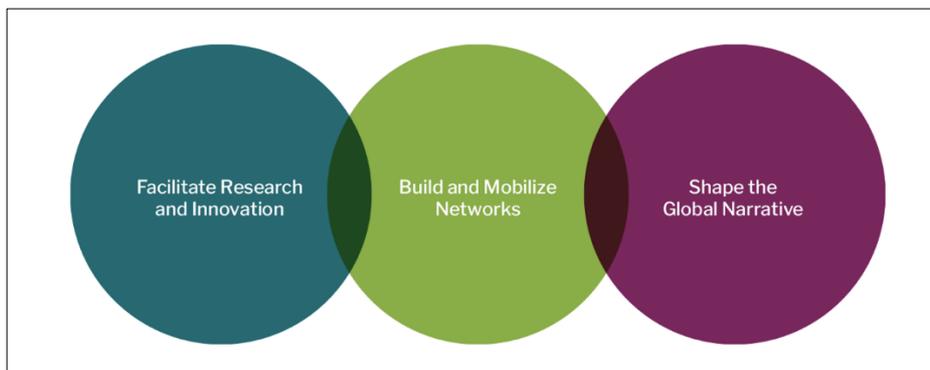
Also, it presents the challenges in eight key cross-cutting areas:

- Delivering water, energy, and food for all;
- Decoupling carbon emissions from economic growth;
- Safeguarding land, freshwater and marine natural assets;
- Building healthy, resilient and productive cities;
- Promoting sustainable rural futures;
- Improving human health by incorporating global change concerns;
- Encouraging sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Improving governance and early warning systems to respond to sophisticated future threats.

The above challenges and research themes highlight the broad scope of Future Earth, and once again emphasize that we should take proactive measures to address environmental changes. Future Earth also indicates that only by combining science, technology, business, government and civil society; can we completely change how global society interacts with the planet, minimizing air and water pollution, ensuring food security and ecosystem stability. Future Earth focuses on the work of 20 global research projects involving physics, chemistry, biology, and human society. They carry out research at the forefront of sustainable science and have played a vital role in the development of earth system science. (See link below for details)

Strategies:

To achieve the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (See link below for details), Future Earth has developed the following strategies:



- **Facilitate Research and Innovation**
Collaborative scientific research activities and bridge the gap between real-world policy, practice and environmental research.

- **Build and Mobilize Networks**
Integrating and mobilizing user needs and research understanding by easy-to-understand information. Develop and disseminate new approaches and methods of the application of knowledge to solve problems as a network.
- **Shape the Global Narrative**
Help to incorporate the latest science into global decision-making and engage in conversations on sustainability solutions.

The strategies for Future Earth promote research and innovation by understanding the interconnections between the environment, social and economic systems, build and mobilize networks and shape the narrative - *turning knowledge into action*.

For further reading:

Future Earth Strategic Research Agenda 2014 published:

<https://futureearth.org/2014/12/04/future-earth-strategic-research-agenda-2014-published/>.

Science Insights:

<https://futureearth.org/publications/science-insights/>.

Full list of 20 Global Research Projects:

<https://futureearth.org/networks/global-research-projects/>.

United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html>.

To be involved in Future Earth visit: <https://futureearth.org/join-our-network/>.

Resources



Biogeosciences is an interactive open-access journal of the European Geosciences Union.

Who is Biogeosciences and what do they do?

Biogeosciences (BG) is a not-for-profit international scientific journal dedicated to the publication and discussion of research articles, short communications, and review papers on all aspects of the **interactions** between the biological, chemical, and physical processes in terrestrial or extra-terrestrial life with the geosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere.

Objective: The objective of the journal is to cut across the boundaries of established sciences and achieve an interdisciplinary view of these interactions.

Approaches: Experimental, conceptual, and modelling approaches are welcome.

Some of the recent papers can be found here:
https://www.biogeosciences.net/recent_papers.html

Web site: <https://www.biogeosciences.net/>

RESOURCE RECOVERY AUSTRALIA (RRA) CREATES DIVERSION

Diverting waste from landfill while creating sustainable employment opportunities for disadvantaged people is the dual focus of Resource Recovery Australia.

Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) is a national social enterprise providing re-use, repair and recycling services. It operates re-use shops, transfer stations, community recycling centres, upcycling studios, landfills and a problem waste mobile recycling service in partnership with councils and industry and community partners across Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

RRA's recycling services and shops create jobs for disadvantaged people to deliver social and economic benefits to communities. In the past year, RRA employed 66 staff, of which 75 per cent were from disadvantaged backgrounds.

One of RRA's priorities is to divert waste from landfill and last year it managed to stop 20,000 tonnes going to the dump.

RRA is also home to Green Connect, which recovers waste and grows fair food. Green Connect employs youths and refugees to tackle unemployment, waste and unsustainable food.

In Queensland, RRA operates Noosa Reuse Facility and the Greater Toowoomba Waste Management Facility.

For further information, visit resourcerecovery.org.au.

WORK TOGETHER TO END POVERTY

A world where people are free of extreme poverty will only be realised if governments, business and concerned people work together, according to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). ACFID is a combined body for non-government organisations involved in international development and humanitarian action. Launched in 1965, it has more than 130 members working in 90 developing countries. It is supported by more than 1.5 million Australians.

It has called on Australia to act for a just and sustainable world in which finite resources are managed sustainably. It believes Australia can be a global leader in sustainable development and humanitarian action through effective government policies, action and partnerships.

Working as a united voice, ACFID has stronger potential to shape policy and to improve people's lives around the world. Members can share knowledge, learn and jointly tackle difficult challenges. It works to engage the public and supports Australia's role in international development and humanitarian action.

ACFID also helps co-ordinate and communicate the collective emergency response efforts of its members.

ACFID welcomes new members and member organisations. Visit acid.asn.au for further information.

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL (KAB)

Mark your calendars for August 17-23, 2020, and be ready with your rubbish bags and gloves for Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

The annual campaign is held in late August to raise awareness of the simple things people can do each day to reduce our environmental impact and encourage action.

The week is one way Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) works toward a litter-free and sustainable environment. KAB, launched 45 years ago, runs grassroots community programs in each state and territory. Its programs include the popular Tidy Towns competition, litter research, sustainable cities, beverage container recycling grants and clean beaches awards.

Launched by Dame Phyllis Frost in 1968, KAB's vision is for litter-free and sustainable Australia. It consists of an independent federation network in each state and territory. Its objectives are to lead, influence and advocate for environmental sustainability. It also provides support through education, innovation, engagement and research.

For further information, visit kab.org.au.

UNITED NATIONS (UN): SUSTAINABILITY KEY TO FUTURE

The maintenance of international peace and security is the central mission of the United Nations.

The UN does this by working to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, peacekeeping, and creating the conditions to allow peace to flourish.

The UN has been working towards this central mission since 1945, when it came into being following WWII. Since its start, the UN has worked to promote sustainable development. Understanding of development has evolved and countries now realise that sustainable development, which promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, offers the best path forward.

Since 1948, when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brought human rights into the realm of international law, the UN has worked through legal instruments and on-the-ground activities to protect people's rights.

The protection of people also extends to delivering humanitarian aid in times of natural and man-made crises and upholding international law.

Since its launch, the UN has expanded to include numerous campaigns, including action on climate change. Governments gathered in Madrid, Spain, last December for the UN Climate Change Conference. The summit reinforced 1.5C as the socially, economically, politically and scientifically safe limit to global warming by the end of this century.

For further information, visit un.org.