



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 2019 #04 --- Places You Love Alliance, April 2019

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

Good morning folks,

This special edition of our newsletter features articles on several of the Places You Love (PYL) Alliance <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> member organisations – and the Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law (APEEL) <http://apeel.org.au/>.

Please support PYL Alliance's call for a new generation of national environmental laws.

Thanks to Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld, for writing all of these articles.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

Feature Articles on Places You Love (PYL) Alliance and some of its member organisations



Blueprint for the Next Generation of Australian Environmental Law: Key Findings

In 2013, 54 Australian conservation organizations comprising 1.5 million people formed the Places You Love (PYL) Alliance. They recognized the necessity of long-term environmental governance. In response, the Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law (APEEL) was established in 2014. APEEL consists of fourteen experts in environmental law. They released a blueprint for the next generation of Australian Environmental Law, elucidated in eight technical discussion papers. As it stands, Australian environmental law is patchy and often constructed in response to a particular issue. At the latest Biodiversity, Conservation and Australia's Environment Laws conference (5th March 2019), it was recognized that **the only way forward is a National Environmental Law**. As the Federal election looms, the time to secure this is now. This paper aims to provide a handle on the process.

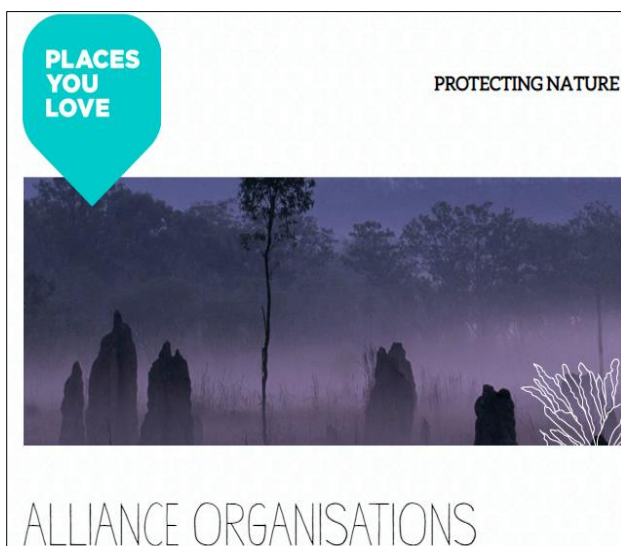
The Foundations

1. Societal goal: There is a need for a national consultative process to replace or amend the 25 year old National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development and develop a new societal goal for the environment.
2. Design principles for environmental law: These external principles guide drafting the law, and include impact assessments and economic instruments.
3. Directing principles to guide decision-making: These matters need to be considered when making decisions and policies, such as the prevention of harm.
4. General environmental duties: The next generation of laws need to repair, minimize and prevent harm.
5. Substantive and procedural rights: These are based on "environmental democracy" which includes the right to a healthy environment, and procedural rights such as participation and justice.
6. Strategic environmental leadership: The Commonwealth should produce a Declaration of Commonwealth Environmental Interests to empower a Commonwealth Environment Commission

- to adopt Commonwealth Strategic Environmental Instruments (CSEI). These will comprise national strategies, programs, standards and protocols, and regional environmental plans.
7. Commonwealth environmental institutions: As mentioned above, a Commonwealth Environment Commission needs to be established, and also a Commonwealth Environment Protection Authority (EPA), which will administer environmental assessment and environmental regulation.
 8. The private sector: Law reform will
 - Require companies to report on environmental performance and adopt environmental management systems
 - Reform income, business and property tax systems to “reward environmentally beneficial practices”
 - Require financial investors to manage long-term environmental risks to their investment
 - Require the Commonwealth Future Fund and Crown financial organisations to consider environmental risks and invest in sustainable development
 - Establish “hybrid enterprises” to enable maximal profit and community profit
 9. Indigenous Australians: Interests need to be included in developing and implementing policy.
 10. Integrity and accountability: Creation of new department in National Audit Office to monitor and report on EPA, Department of Environment and Energy, and advise on need for new CSEIs.
 11. Resources: Development of a National Environmental Investment Plan to resource environmental management for an Environment Future Fund which can implement CSEIs or ecological restoration.
 12. Environmental data: Commonwealth Environment Commission will use a nationally coordinated approach to environmental data collection, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
 13. Conserving nature: CSEIs develop “bio-regional planning” which considers terrestrial, marine and coastal areas in consultation with stakeholders, including indigenous. These are clearly defined with continual monitoring.
 14. Climate change and clean energy: A “comprehensive national response” is required including
 - A price on carbon
 - Emissions reduction targets up to 2050, when emissions are close to or below zero
 - Remove fossil fuel subsidies
 - Incentives for renewable energy and low-carbon

REFERENCE

‘2017 Blueprint for the Next Generation of Australian Environmental Law, *Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law*, - <http://apeel.org.au/>



Places You Love (PYL) Alliance

<http://www.placesyoulove.org/>

A place of incredible biodiversity and beauty, Australia also boasts another title: **the world leader on extinction**. Since European settlement, we have the highest number of mammals extinct. Deforestation continues to remove the habitat of many endangered species; ecosystems are being destroyed and biodiversity is in decline. Eastern Australia continues to be a “global deforestation hot spot”. Our water table is ravaged by ill-managed projects and our rivers are unable to meet the demand of the farmers and communities they sustain. Annually, 3000 Australians die from air pollution.

On the global environmental democracy index (measuring transparency, participation and justice

in decision-making), Australia is 37th: below Mongolia, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and Russia.

In response to our plight, The Place You Love (PYL) alliance has formed. It comprises 54 environmental groups from across Australia, the “*biggest collaboration between Australian environmental groups in history*”. PYL states that the environmental problems that Australia faces are due to “weak and outdated laws”. These laws ignore communities, sound ecological principles and international obligations. It is these laws that allow developers and logging companies the freedom to destroy the environment with little if any ramifications. Corporations use “political donations” and “backroom deals” to sway governmental decisions. In contrast,

challenging the process of destruction is extremely difficult. The goal of PYL and alliance organizations is to fight for a **new generation of national environmental laws**.

PYL has also recognized the need for grassroots change, as we are facing an unprecedented onslaught on the Australian environment. Governments are reversing decisions aimed at environmental protection, and our resources are being ruthlessly exploited. The power of this alliance needs to be exercised more than ever before to prompt all Australians to hold their elected representatives to account. The long-term vision of PYL is to encourage people to link with PYL partner organizations and contribute their particular skills and passion for the environment to drive the momentum for change.



Conservation Council ACT Region - <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/>

The Conservation Council ACT Region is the peak non-government environment organisation for the Canberra Region. It has been the community's voice for the environment in the Canberra region since 1979.

Its mission is to achieve an ecologically sustainable and zero net carbon society through advocacy, education, research and engagement with community, the private sector and with Government.

The Council represent more than 40 member groups who in turn represent over 15,000 supporters. It harnesses the collective expertise and experience of its member groups and networks. It works collaboratively with Government, business and the community to achieve the highest quality environment for Canberra and its region.

Campaign areas

The Conservation Council is active in a number of campaign areas. Its current focus includes:

- Biodiversity Conservation – protecting our unique ecological communities and the Bush Capital
- Climate Change – a regional, national and global challenge
- Planning – the right things in the right places
- Transport – connecting people and places
- Waste – being efficient through closed-loop systems
- Water – smart use of a scarce resource
- Governance – for a Smarter, Sustainable Canberra

The Council plays a key role in encouraging, coordinating and supporting community participation in ACT environmental issues as well as facilitating public education and sharing of information on local, regional, national and global environmental issues.

Major events

2019 World Environment Day Dinner: June 2019 -- Conservation Council's peak fundraiser

2019 Environment Exchanges - Monthly workshops on a topical environmental issue

Access us

- Visit our website at <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/> for information about the Conservation Council ACT Region, including our events, news, publications and campaigns.
 - Our blog provides insights into the latest stories from the Conservation Council and around the ACT. Check it out at <https://conservationcouncil.org.au/blog2/>.
 - Yellow Box Dispatch - This is the Conservation Council ACT Region's free monthly newsletter. Email communications@conservationcouncil.org.au to subscribe.
 - Social media Facebook Twitter Linkedin
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Who We Are

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is a national environmental organisation of Australia with half a million members. It is voluntary, funded by donors and non-partisan. ACF has identified that climate damage and habitat destruction are the greatest challenges our nation faces. They describe themselves as advocates for the environment, using “courage, creativity and common sense”. ACF has a change strategy:

1. Change the story: Destruction is not inevitable. There are stories of inspiration in which seemingly impossible outcomes were achieved. For example, oil rigs have not been allowed on the Great Barrier Reef. National parks and marine sanctuaries have been created. And we no longer use leaded petrol.
2. Build people power: Using strong communities of people, policy makers are being called to account. ACF campaigns at all levels: Parliament, town halls, newsrooms and board rooms. Because of their success, ACF is listened to. **“And when they need an extra push, we bring together strategic alliances and the grassroots power of thousands...”**
3. Fix the system: Now is not the time to be fixing individual issues. Structural change in law, institutions and decisions is required. Logging companies advocate planting trees. ACF stands against cutting them down in the first place.

Major Achievements

1. Protection of the Great Barrier Reef: The Great Barrier Reef sprawls along some 2,300km of Queensland’s coastline. It is home to a massive range of marine life. However this natural wonder has been under threat for decades. In the 1960s, oil companies planned to mine the Reef. ACF members brought a Royal Commission ... and oil drilling was shelved. To protect the Reef from future proposals by law, ACF and other organizations sparked a national campaign. In 1975 the Reef was declared a national marine park under Australian law. Not content to rest there, ACF campaigned for World Heritage listing in the 1980s and **won!** The 2000s saw the expansion of the marine park from 5% to 33%. Now the threat is twofold: global warming which causes coral bleaching and death, and the proposed Adani coal mine. In response, ACF held a Stop Adani rally in December 2016 and is taking the government to court.
2. World Heritage listing for Kakadu: Kakadu contains beautiful waterfalls, massive wetlands with abundant wildlife and indigenous rock art sites. **It is the world’s richest breeding ground for migratory tropical waterbirds.** Over 30 years, ACF has led the protection of Kakadu from uranium mining. Between 1979 and 1991, national park status was secured. With indigenous support, plans for a new uranium mine in Jabiluka were stopped by the 2000s. On 1 January 2016, World Heritage listing was achieved for Kakadu National Park.



“Any fair-minded Australian who has thought through the issue of having 20 million tonnes of radioactive tailings in a World Heritage listed area in the middle of the most significant national park that we have, on land that belongs to someone else, will say that this mine is wrong”- Peter Garrett

3. Stopped mining in Antarctica: Working with scientists, ACF formed an Antarctic Committee to formulate policy that would completely ban mineral exploration. After over 10 years of campaigning, mining in Antarctica was outlawed in 1991.

"Not many groups can say in all honesty we saved a continent"- Former ACF Director Geoff Mosley.

4. The biggest Climate Change march in the world in 2015
5. In 2016, the return of Shelburne Bay, an untouched part of Cape York to its indigenous owners
6. National Landcare movement working with farmers beginning in 1986
7. Stopped the proposal to dam the Franklin River
8. Originated Clean Energy Finance Corporation between 2010 and 2012, an Australian governmental body which invests in clean energy projects
9. Returned water to the Murray Darling system: Greedy overuse of the Murray Darling River system was bleeding it dry. The Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) became law in late 2012. It pledged \$10 billion to recover 3200 billion litres every year for the rivers and wetlands.

Overarching Aims

1. Stop climate damage: Immediate transition to renewable clean energy from wind and sun. We possess the ability to transfer to 100% renewable energy by 2030. But the federal government is lagging. ACF is placing pressure both at a national level in view of the upcoming federal election and also encouraging the state governments to embrace the change. It is also campaigning to Stop Adani as this coal mine will create damage to the climate, the Reef and indigenous land.
2. Stand up for nature: 80% of Australia's flora and fauna are unique to this continent. But 2000 species are facing extinction. In response, ACF is pushing for large-scale systemic change. This includes an environmental fund, stronger environmental laws and the creation of safe habitats.
3. Redesign our economy: Our current economic structure is a "major driver of the pollution and extinction crisis- and a major barrier to solving it". Instead of the corporate emphasis, ACF advocates the sharing of common wealth and the creation of products and services that will replenish our communities and ecosystems. This can be achieved by requiring businesses to audit their output, and governments to tax poor environmental performers.
4. Fix our democracy: A democracy is for the people, and functions best when those people have a voice. At the moment, it appears that a few big-spending corporations who have the say in policy formulation. ACF is aiming to cap political donations, and is training citizens Australia-wide to actively participate in the democratic process. It is upholding the civil right to have a political voice.

Campaigns

1. Climate election: Make climate change the agenda this federal election <https://www.acf.org.au/election>
2. Stop Adani https://www.acf.org.au/stop_adani
3. End extinction https://www.acf.org.au/environment_laws
4. Transform our economy <https://www.acf.org.au/economy>
5. Nuclear free https://www.acf.org.au/nuclear_free

Community action resources can be found at https://www.acf.org.au/action_kits



BirdLife Australia - <https://www.birdlife.org.au/>

Who We Are

BirdLife Australia had its origins in 1896 when a "flock of gentlemen ornithologists began dining together in Melbourne". Over the years, the interests turned from observation of birds to their conservation. On 1 January 2012, BirdLife Australia came into being. It is the only national organisation dedicated to the welfare of birds, with over 10 000 members and 65 000 supporters.



Major Achievements

- Identified 315 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Australia and recruited volunteers to monitor and manage them
- Released over 100 captive-bred critically endangered Regent Honeyeaters
- Helped create Australia's first International Bird Sanctuary in Adelaide for 20 000 migratory shorebirds across 36 species
- Voluntary collection of 10 million records for Atlas of Australian Birds database

- Beach-nesting project for Hooded Plovers on Victorian beaches 400% breeding increase
- 1500 hectare breeding zone fenced off near Perth for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos
- Co-ordination of 28 000 tree planting in 1 year for Red-tailed Black cockatoo habitat

Programs

1. Migratory Shorebirds: These birds fly from Australia to the Arctic Circle to breed every year. Habitat destruction has reduced populations up to 80% in the last 30 years. In response, BirdLife Australia has partnered with government, universities, NGOs and volunteers to orchestrate a "flyway-wide response".
2. Threatened Beach-nesting Birds: Birds nesting on beaches face dangers such as human impact, weeds and pest animals. With the assistance of volunteers, BirdLife Australia collects data on breeding birds, particularly sensitive species, educates the public, and drives policy change.
3. Threatened Woodland Birds: **40 species are now facing extinction**. With the rapid decline in habitat due to clearing, BirdLife has developed a Conservation Action Plan (CAP). This includes ecologists, government and NGOs to implement policy to protect all species.
4. Threatened Mallee Birds: A CAP has been put in place to protect threatened Mallee birds via revegetation, fire ecology research and management, captive breeding and translocation.
5. Key Biodiversity Areas: KBAs are the most important natural sites around the world; Australia has over 300; 19 of which are in imminent danger of losing threatened species. KBA guardians and volunteers engage land managers, indigenous people, government and other stakeholders.
6. Preventing Extinctions: Our most endangered bird species are not being given attention. This program aims to prevent extinction through emergency intervention and stronger national law.
7. Threatened Wetland Birds: Wetland birds face the threats of wetland loss, irrigation and degradation. BirdLife Australia works with land managers in their practices to improve wetland health, and protests against destructive development.
8. Threatened Seabirds: BirdLife Australia runs a program which supports research to improve conservation of albatrosses and other seabirds.
9. Threatened Black-Cockatoos: Working with communities, landholders and managers in south-western Australia, BirdLife also restores remnant vegetation and protects nesting sites.
10. Urban Birds: After 20 years of monitoring urban birds in Birds in Backyards, the Urban Birds CAP is now partnering architects, urban planners, developers, local government and conservation organizations to increase urban biodiversity.
11. State of Australia's Birds: This project involves widespread environmental reporting to use birds as an indicator for environmental health.
12. Science Program: Since its inception in 1901, BirdLife Australia has been undergirded by advice from the Research and Conservation Committee. It publishes two peer-reviewed journals and hosts an Australasian Ornithological Conference.

Campaigns

1. Bittern Project: Ensure long-term survival
2. Cowra Woodland Birds Program: Reverse decline of woodland birds in Cowra.
3. Gippsland Lakes Program: Monitor and increase awareness of threats to wetland and shorebirds
4. Operation Rainbow Roost: Locates nesting sites for Rainbow Lorikeet
5. Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery: Save from extinction
6. Painted Snipe Project: Halt species decline using monitoring program
7. Powerful Owl Project: A study on breeding, habitat, mortality and diet helps inform conservation and management recommendations
8. Samphire Coast Icon Project: Saltmarshes supporting nationally and internationally significant numbers of migratory and resident shorebirds
9. Starlings in Western Australia: Raising awareness of starlings in local areas

Upcoming Events: <http://birdlife.org.au/events/>

Resources: <http://birdlife.org.au/education-publications>



Humane Society International (HSI) Australia - <https://www.hsi.org.au/>

Main Aims

Humane Society International (HSI) is the only international group that works on saving endangered species, improves legislation impacting animals, reduces cruelty in farming and industry, improves the welfare of domestic species, and increases conservational habitat.

Its mission is “to build an ecologically sustainable and humane world for all animals”, a “world where people treat animals and the environment with respect and compassion”.

Major Achievements

- 1996: Nominated three species of albatross to the Endangered Species Protection Act
- 1997: Nominated Great White Shark to Endangered Species Protection Act
- 1999: Key NGO behind the passage of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act (Commonwealth)
- 2004: Triggered establishment of first National Biodiversity Hotspots program causing \$100 million investment in conservation
- 2007: Established Wildlife Land Trust in Australia, now exceeding 565 landowners and 65 000 hectares
- 2012: All major Australian Department stores (David Jones, Myer, Big W, Target and Kmart) joined HSI's Fur Free Retailer campaign and announced fur-free policy
- 2015: Achieved \$1 million fine against a Japanese whaling company illegally whaling in the Australian Whale Sanctuary
- 2017: Following a Federal Court case in WA, Snowdale Holdings was fined over \$1 million for deceit involving free-range eggs

Projects



Animal Welfare: Animals in Australia and worldwide are treated cruelly on our farms. Mulesing, developed to counteract the problem of “fly strike” on our merino sheep involves slicing skin off the buttocks. Now a genetic solution to breed a fly strike resistant merino may be possible. Other animals are killed for fur, skin, horns and fins. Donkeys are being stolen and brutally bludgeoned to death to use their skins to make “ejiao” in China, a traditional medicine with no proven health benefits. HSI is calling for Australia to ask our Federal Agriculture Minister to rule out trade with donkeys in China. It also seeks to end the dog meat trade in Asia, and the animal exploitation in racing, gambling and entertainment industries.

Further, HSI campaigns to ban animal cosmetic and chemical testing. **Globally 500,000 animals suffer and die just for cosmetics each year.** In 2012 HSI initiated the worldwide #BeCrueltyFree campaign to influence consumers and

politicians to totally ban cosmetics animal testing. The EU, Israel, Norway, India, New Zealand and Turkey have implemented it.

1. **Wildlife and Habitat Protection**
HSI achieves this goal through Australian laws and international treaties. Success points include millions of hectares of wildlife habitat and over 70 threatened species protected in Australia, such as sharks, whales and koalas.
2. **Wildlife Land Trust**
Having one of the “richest assemblages of endemic species on the planet”, Australia also has **one of the worst records for mammal extinctions and near extinctions of any developed country**. It is private landowners who are now being challenged to work with the Land Trust to dedicate some or all of their land to wildlife and habitat protection.
3. **Marine Wildlife**
Covering 70% of the Earth’s surface, our oceans comprise an array of species. HSI works worldwide and in Australia through international treaties and domestic law to protect species and the habitats in which they live.

4. Humane Choice

A certification scheme introduced by HSI in 2006, Humane Choice provides an indication to consumers of the standard of living of farmed animals. It includes pasture raised pork, beef, lamb, chicken and eggs. Animals are born and raised on pastures, “untethered and uncaged”. In particular, free range egg standard is 1500 hens per hectare, whereas the governmental definition of “free range” is 10 000 hens per hectare.

5. Law and Policy

HSI encourages consumers to challenge our political parties to commit to new nature laws.

6. International Projects

Humane Society International works to support projects worldwide: protection of wildlife and habitats from destruction and illegal trade; veterinary care for suffering animals; and rescue and care for animals in disaster.

Campaigns

Save Australian Spectacled Flying- Foxes!

Months ago, the population was estimated to be 75 000. **A single heatwave killed one-third.** Now people are asked to contact the Federal Minister for the Environment, Melissa Price, for an endangered listing of the Spectacled Flying Fox - <https://action.hsi.org.au/page/37792/action/1>.



Wilderness Society- <https://www.wilderness.org.au/>

Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld

Vision

The Wilderness Society has the vision to give power back to communities in the places they inhabit. It desires a future for native wildlife, meaning cleaner air, resilient soil, healthy oceans and a stable climate. Environmental protection needs to be “once and for all”. The Wilderness Society describes its reliance on the Places You Love Alliance, which has 1.5 million supporters, to bring about “new, stronger national nature laws” and an “independent environmental protection watchdog **with teeth**”.

This vision is achieved through:

- Connection with local leaders and giving them a say
- Training leaders to become strong advocates
- Advertising to increase profile
- Research and investigations linked to media
- Lobbying politicians in policy formulation

Major Achievements



Beginning in 1976, 16 people met in Tasmanian Dr Bob Brown's home. It was the inauspicious emergence of the movement against the damming of the Franklin River. Ultimately 6000 people registered for the cause, each willing to be arrested. The opposition leader Bob Hawke voiced his support, and won the federal election. In protest, the Tasmanian Premier brought a High Court Challenge. The result? **“There shall be no dam on the Franklin River”**.

Further successes have followed:

- 2012: Protection for over 500 000 hectares of native Tasmanian forest
- 2013: Protection of Kimberley from gas export

megahub

- 2016: Spill modelling sealed BP's exit from Great Australian Bight
- 2018: Revealed Queensland's deforestation crisis including broken law

Today, there are 30 000 members with campaign centres in every state.

Focus Areas

1. Deforestation:

"An MCG-sized area of forest and bush is bulldozed every 2 minutes in Australia". It is not surprising that Australia is the only developed nation ranking in the deforestation top 10, which includes Borneo, the Amazon and the Congo. Our reasons? Agriculture, mining and urbanization. Deforestation involves bulldozers dragging thick chains through the forest and then burning the wood or leaving it to rot. Carbon is released to the atmosphere: **like adding 10 million cars to our roads.**

In 2012, the LNP Newman Government made it easier for developers to increase rates of deforestation in Queensland. In 2018, the Wilderness Society closed some of those loopholes, but land-clearing Australia-wide still needs to be addressed. The Society is:

- Advocating for new laws
 - Undertaking research
 - Monitoring satellite imagery and recording suspicious clearing
 - Investigating rehabilitation funding
 - Organizing a grassroots national movement
 - Educating Australians on the need for intact ecosystems
2. Change the Laws of Nature: The Wilderness Society is advocating the need to secure strong new environmental protection laws and an independent "watchdog" to enforce them. Now, at the imminent federal election, is the time. Currently, 99.7% of projects assessed by the Federal Government are approved. The law as it stands is not strong enough.
 3. Movement for Life: By training local leaders as advocates for the environment, the Wilderness Society is creating a grassroots campaign for change. 1000+ leaders have already been trained; regular training events are still occurring. By learning community organizing principles from around the world, the organization is continually improving.
 4. Great Australian Bight: When it was uncovered that a massive reservoir of oil was located in the Bight, oil companies fought to get their share. In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was catastrophic for ecosystems and lives. *"Let's rule out a repeat".*
 5. Tasmania's forests: After decades spent battling loggers, in 2012 the Tasmanian Forest Agreement promised protection for 500,000 hectares of native forest. Within a few short years, politicians had made it redundant. The Wilderness Society is continuing to campaign for National Park status, and World Heritage listing for the Tarkine.
 6. Victoria's forests: Just 1% of the Central Highlands ecosystem – East Gippsland - is unlogged. But rather than "cheap office paper and worthless wood chips", this organization is taking a multi-pronged approach. Law reform, education, recycled paper, and working with traditional owners are some of the ways they are combatting it.
 7. The Pilliga: Half a million hectares of intact eucalypt woodland is being sold for export. Santos plan to drill 850 coal seam gas wells in this rare ecosystem. This is a risky extraction and will release toxic methane gas into the air and pollute the water that this forest feeds into the Great Artesian Basin. In response, the Wilderness Society is meeting with politicians, experts, communities and media, and continuing to **pressure Santos to stop the project.**
 8. The Kimberley: Home to intact ecosystems, the Kimberley was targeted for gas fracking. Although The Wilderness Society secured some national and marine parks following proposals in 1992, some habitats are still unprotected. The Wilderness Society is now frantically advocating new laws and the highest level of protection for parks.



World Wildlife Fund (WWF) - <https://www.wwf.org.au/#gs.IdLzrUsa>

Written by Sasha Adams, HOPE member Qld

Vision

World Wildlife Fund (now WWF) was birthed in 1961 in Switzerland. It was a partnership of scientists, business and government leaders, and had the Prince of The Netherlands and The Duke of Edinburgh's support. The initial vision of the group was to stop the destruction of wild animals and their habitats. WWF is now the largest and most influential independent conservation organization in the world, with over 5 million supporters in more than 100 nations. Established in 1978 with three staff, WWF is now Australia's largest conservation organization with over 500 000 members. Their mission? *To create a world where people live and prosper in harmony with nature.*

Projects



1. Species: Working within the entire Asia-Pacific region, WWF Australia partners with organisations, communities and individuals to protect endangered species. Although it is the “charismatic” species such as marine turtles that get the attention, their protection enables the protection of habitat. This in turn protects more species.
2. Oceans: Australia borders the Pacific, Indian and Southern oceans; worldwide our oceans feed over one billion people and create more than half of our oxygen. These oceans are now threatened by overfishing, global warming, marine pollution and trawling nets. WWF’s oceans projects include conservation work from the tropics to glaciers.
3. Food: WWF is focussing on sustainable food production. **Currently, the world’s 7.6 billion people consume more than 1.7 times sustainable production. 70% more food will need to be produced by 2050 to feed 9.8 billion.** WWF works with food producers, companies, governments, NGOs and the public to demonstrate sustainable food production, consumption and waste.
4. Climate: It is known that reliance on fossil fuels pollutes the atmosphere and warms the planet. But *our ability to innovate is boundless and exciting*. WWF works with business, governments and communities to deliver net-zero carbon pollution and 100% renewable energy in Australia before 2050 including 100% renewable electricity before 2035.
5. Rewild the Yorke: On the Yorke Peninsula, South Australia, WWF is partnering to “turn the tide” on extinction and re-introduce locally extinct species across 170 000 hectares over the next five years.

Campaigns

1. Save Koalas: Koalas could be extinct in NSW by 2050 if habitat clearing continues. So far, 31 860 message have been sent to key NSW politicians. To participate, please click on the link <https://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/save-koalas>
2. Plastic: Plastic has contaminated from Australia to the Arctic. WWF is calling on governments at the United Nations meeting in March to introduce a global and legally binding agreement to stop plastics polluting the ocean. To sign the petition, please click on the link <https://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/plastics#gs.GEaTt2tR>
3. Think Before You Buy: Hawksbill turtles are being illegally hunted and killed to make tortoiseshell products such as hair combs. People purchasing souvenirs overseas may unknowingly purchase these products. WWF has partnered with Royal Caribbean Cruises to bring their plight to attention.
4. 40 Years In The Field: Some of WWF’s achievements include: campaigns to stop whaling, protect forests from tree-clearing and stop dumping on the Reef. Please continue to get involved by clicking on the link <https://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/40#gs.VOKQAgRQ>
5. Earth Hour: Millions of people in over 180 countries are switching their lights off for Earth Hour to symbolise the need for climate action. **It’s time to switch off and #Connect2Earth: Saturday 30th March 8:30pm.**
6. Change The Way You Live: Our ecological footprint is massive. *If the rest of the world lives like we did, we’d need over three planets to meet our total demands on nature.* The changes required are simple: at home, while shopping and how we travel.
7. Panda Labs: Using technology such as blockchain, WWF has developed creative solutions for current problems, for example, tracking food and avoiding illegal, environmentally damaging or unethical products.
8. Experience WWF’s Antarctic Journey: Partnering with Phillip Island Nature Parks, WWF has produced a virtual tour of Antarctica. This enables people to learn more about the issues facing it, and explain the importance of its protection.
9. Wild-Livestream: This encourages gamers to defend the world’s animals, raising awareness.
10. Sustainable Christmas And New Year: WWF encourages celebrating the festive season by choosing the most eco-friendly Christmas tree, swapping plastic and choosing sustainable gifts.

Resources

Calculate your ecological footprint <https://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/change-the-way-you-live/ecological-footprint-calculator#gs.hNcbYfAa>

Resource library <https://www.wwf.org.au/knowledge-centre/resource-library#gs.FqK1fj1v>