



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2024 #12 --- December 2024

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 the December issue and last newsletter of the year! This month also covers a variety of topics with a strong focus on protection of the environment. Firstly, we learn about Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) then we meet Saul Griffith, an engineer, inventor, and entrepreneur dedicated to driving the global transition to clean energy. Then learn how to save energy and cut costs with Energy.gov.au. Learn about the importance of regenerating nature and the Earth Charter Movement, one of our alliance partners.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2024 Environmental Observances

December

5 [International Volunteer Day | United Nations](#)

5 [World Soil Day | United Nations](#)

10 [Human Rights Day | United Nations](#)

11 [International Mountain Day | United Nations](#)

2025 Environmental Observances

2025 International Years

[International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, 2025](#)

[International Year of Cooperatives, 2025](#)

[International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, 2025](#)

[International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025](#)

International Decades (overlapping with 2025)

[Decade of Action for Cryospheric Sciences, 2025–2034](#)

[United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms \(2025–2034\)](#)

[International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development, 2024–2033](#)

[Rights of indigenous people](#)

[United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021–2030\)](#)

[Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism](#)

[Improving global road safety](#)

[United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021–2030\)](#)

[Oceans and the law of the sea](#)

[Political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit](#)

[United Nations Decade of Family Farming \(2019–2028\)](#)

[International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028\)](#)

[Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

[United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition \(2016– 2025\)](#)

[Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa \(2016–2025\)](#)

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n20/226/30/pdf/n2022630.pdf>

Message from the President

Welcome to the last edition of HOPE's newsletter for 2024 and my first message to you as President of HOPE Inc.! Firstly, I would like to thank Frank for his decades of hard labour in creating HOPE into the visionary and reputable organisation that it is today. I know I will certainly have big shoes to fill as President in the coming year! My aim as President will not be to reinvent the wheel but rather to streamline and optimise our work with the talent we have at hand - our dedicated and passionate volunteers.

My main goals for 2025 will be to:

1. analyse our outreach, our audience and followers to see how we can best inspire them to make meaningful changes in their everyday lives
2. explore revenue options to improve our financial sustainability
3. inspire a greater number of active and passionate HOPE volunteers.

I plan to achieve this by analysing existing data and trends, as well as pursuing new ideas. Some may fail but some will make way for small wins, or maybe larger ones moving us closer to HOPE's vision of a society which is sustainable and just- ecologically, economically and socially.



In this coming year I am inspired by the words of Mary-Lou Gittins, a leading Darling Downs female environmental champion, "being part of a team will enhance any individual's capacity to have influence. Small steps make way for larger accomplishments. Be true to yourself and those around you as this will maintain your energy and focus. It does not have to be a big issue; we could strive for maintenance and improvement. Each of us have a role in our everyday life to practice what we believe therefore lead by example."

I hope that with the passion of our volunteers together we can explore new and exciting projects, continue to report on climate action locally and abroad, and bring to light ecological issues and ways to mitigate them. If you have any environmental issues you wish to report on, passion projects you have been working on or have ideas for projects for HOPE to partake in, I encourage you to share these with us. I look forward to hearing from you and any ideas you might have. I can be contacted directly via admin@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Would you be interested in...

- We are currently looking for volunteers to be our liaison with IPEN (International Pollutants Elimination Network) South-East Asia (SEA) Hub. This is a great opportunity to be involved with activists on an international platform, reporting on production, use, and disposal of toxic chemicals.
- Over the years HOPE has tried to advocate for more robust environmental stewardship – especially in the area of government policy, legislation and strategies. Our motto of "Think Globally, Act Locally" has been at the centre of our investigations into sustainable, long-term solutions for the myriad of major problems impacting us internationally and here in Australia. We are now seeking interest of volunteer researchers to collaborate on drafting a feature article on international and national policy to proffer recommendations to our federal government in light of the [Nature Positive \(Environment Protection Australia\) Bill 2024 \[and related Bills\] – Parliament of Australia](#) and establishment of the national Environment Protection Australia and Environment Information Australian bodies.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please email HOPE President at (admin@hopeaustralia.org.au) or Office Manager at (office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

And lastly...



2024-2025 HOPE Management Team

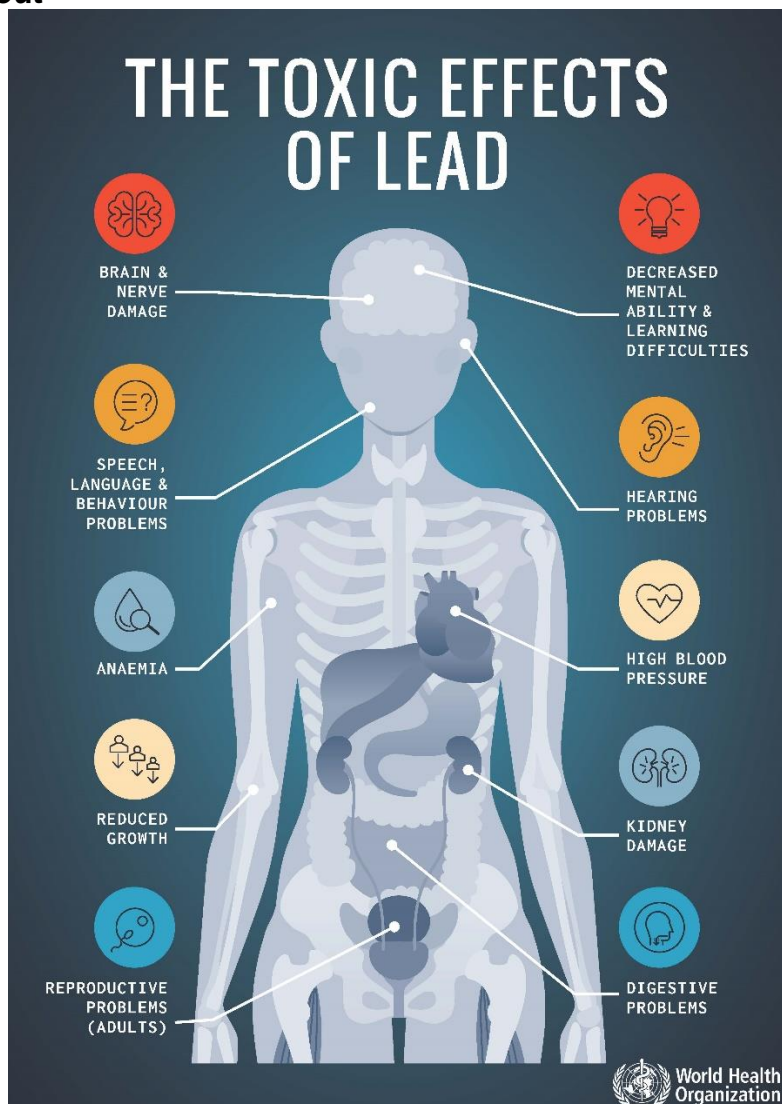
2024-2025 Executive Committee

- President – Anna Kula-Kaczmarek
- Secretary – Kerry Kruger
- Treasurer – Miriam Sharp

2024-2025 Office Admin Support Team

- Ordinary members who fulfil administration support roles as:
 - Office Manager – Frank Ondrus
 - Newsletter Editor* – Nina Stick
 - Website Administrator* – Yaoyao Jiang
 - Media officers* – Jason Dingley, Nancy Maria, Pooja Devi & Rachel Telan
 - Membership Officer – (Office Manager)
 - Volunteer Coordinator* – (Office Manager)
 - Social Media Administrator* – Charmaine Turnbull
 - Facebook/LinkedIn* – Charmaine Turnbull
 - Twitter/Instagram* – Liam Carroll
 - Admin assistants*(i.e., researchers, office assistants, etc.) – Andrew Nicholson, Callum Fisher, Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, Frank Lee, Gabriel Malandu, Georgy Hadwen, Karyne Maurmann, Lizzie Pennington, Samy Leyton & Shuri Matsumoto
- * – These positions can be undertaken remotely by phone and email communication.

Do you know about



Queensland article

Condamine Catchment Management Assoc Inc (CCMA)

Introduction:

The Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) is dedicated to the sustainable management of the Condamine River catchment, one of Queensland's most vital river systems. Through community engagement, restoration projects, and partnerships with local stakeholders, CCMA works to protect and enhance the health of this unique and essential ecosystem.

Vision:

"Sustainable Future for Our Condamine Community and Catchment."

Mission:

"Foster Cooperation and Coordination."

Activities and Engagement:

CCMA offers a variety of opportunities for community involvement throughout the year, including:

- **Condamine Catch Up**
- **4x Yearly Meetings**
- **Expert Speakers**
- **Workshops and Field Days**
- **Forums**

Free Membership!

Get Involved:

- **Follow CCMA:** Stay updated on the latest activities and events by following CCMA on [Facebook](#).
- **Attend Events:** Participate in our workshops, field days, and forums to learn about sustainable practices.
- **Collaborate:** Connect with other community members and share ideas to foster a healthier catchment.

For more details and to become a part of this vital work, visit facebook.com/CondamineCatchment.

(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)

Your financial support is sought! – <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/donations/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Of course, if you 'cash in your containers', why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C11107170.

Please help us to continue our efforts in advocating for responsible stewardship of the environment and supports adopting sustainable long-term solutions to the manifold environmental problems facing humanity.



National articles

Meet Saul Griffith



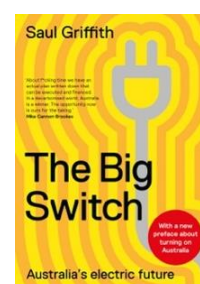
Saul Griffith is an engineer, inventor, and entrepreneur dedicated to driving the global transition to clean energy. With a PhD from MIT, Saul has founded several companies, including [Otherlab](#), an innovation lab that develops groundbreaking energy technologies, and [Rewiring Australia](#), an organisation focused on decarbonising Australia through electrification.

A Vision for a Sustainable Future:

Saul's vision centres on **complete electrification**—shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy in homes, transportation, and industry. He believes electrifying everything is the key to tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. His work shows that this transition is feasible and cost-effective, offering a pathway to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

From Research to Action:

Through **Rewiring Australia**, Saul advocates for policies that make energy efficiency and electrification accessible to all. His efforts have influenced Australian policy discussions and focused on household electrification, from solar energy to electric vehicles. Saul's 2021 book, [The Big Switch](#), outlines a practical roadmap for achieving this energy transformation, emphasising the role of communities and local action.



Why Saul's Vision Matters:

Saul Griffith's approach to energy reform is optimistic. He believes that we already possess the technology needed to address climate change. By focusing on **local, scalable solutions**, such as transitioning homes to electric power and investing in sustainable infrastructure, Saul is leading the charge toward a clean energy future.

His vision goes beyond addressing the climate crisis. It envisions creating healthier, more resilient communities where clean energy is affordable and reliance on fossil fuels is eliminated.

Saul's message is clear: *Every household and individual can contribute to building a sustainable future. We can all contribute to the clean energy revolution by switching to electric appliances, using renewable energy, or advocating for energy-efficient policies.*

To learn more about Saul Griffith's work and his push for a cleaner world, visit [his website](#)

(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)

Advertisement

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@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)

Save Energy and Cut Costs with Energy.gov.au

Looking to make your home more energy-efficient and save on bills? The **Households** section on Energy.gov.au offers valuable resources and programs to help Australians reduce energy costs while supporting a more sustainable future.



Key Programs and Resources:

- **Household Energy Upgrades Fund**: Access **discounted finance products** to upgrade your home with solar panels, modern appliances, and energy-efficient improvements.
- **Quick Wins**: Reduce energy bills with simple tips like comparing energy providers, turning off standby appliances, and using energy-efficient lighting.
- **Switch to Save**: One of the easiest ways to cut costs is to compare and switch to better energy offers. Visit the website to see how much you could save.
- **Household Guides**: Receive tailored advice for reducing energy, water, and waste, customised for various life stages, climates, and seasons.

Energy-Efficient Appliances:

[Appliances](#) account for around **30% of home energy use**. Choosing energy-efficient models and checking **energy rating labels** can help you save significantly on your bills. [Heating and cooling](#), which can make up nearly **50%** of your home's energy use, are other areas where small changes can make a significant impact.

Solar and Sustainable Solutions:

Australia has the highest uptake of **solar PV systems** globally, with over **21% of homes** using rooftop solar. Learn about [solar PV, batteries](#), and other sustainable energy options to make your home more eco-friendly and reduce your carbon footprint.

Get Started Today:

For more energy-saving tips and to explore government programs that can help you reduce your energy usage, visit Energy.gov.au



(Written by Shuri Matsumoto - HOPE admin volunteer Qld)

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Mob: 0457 709 938 Ravensbourne
kym@leafetail.au www.leafetail.au

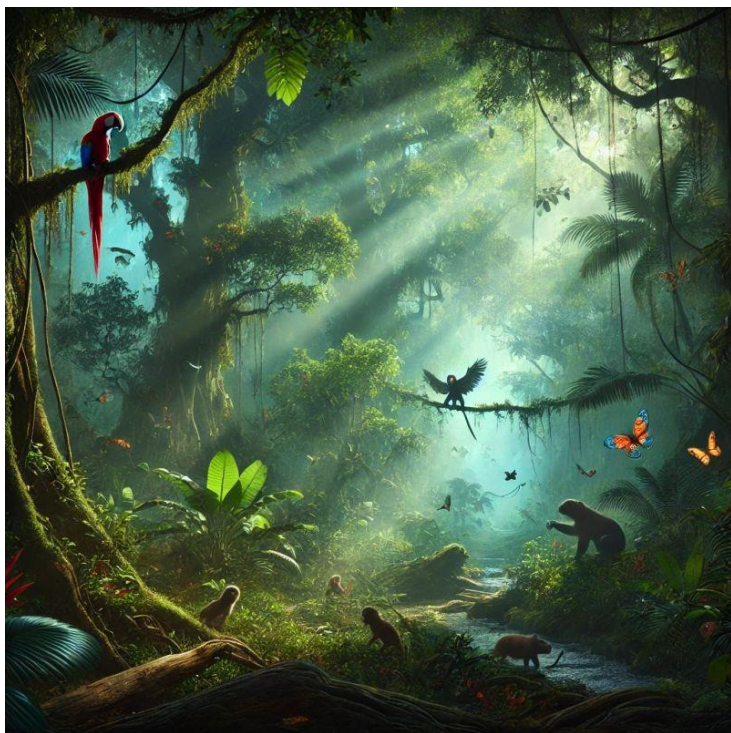
- Flora & fauna surveys
- Nest-box installation & carved hollows
- Plant identification training
- Revegetation advice
- Plant specimen identification
- Wildlife & drone photography
- Tree trimming & ethical removals

International article

REGENERATE NATURE NOW, EVERYWHERE, WITH EVERYONE!

By Rod de Laet - Climate Strategist. Co-Author of "Cooling Climate Chaos". Rain Maker. System Integrator. Let's stabilize the climate. #GreenUpToCoolDown

Four interconnected crises; climate, biodiversity, water, and soon food security, threaten to overwhelm us all as our extractive, polluting economies of 8.2 billion people push the living Earth's regulatory body functions into tipping points. Rising global temperatures and the disruption of water cycles, due to the destruction of ecosystems, fuel more extreme weather, from relentless droughts to catastrophic floods, disrupting ecosystems, pushing species to extinction and deteriorate the resilience of societies. As biodiversity declines, ecosystems unravel, stripping away the natural systems that regulate our climate, purify our water, and protect us from disasters. The tipping points like the dieback of the Amazon, coral bleaching, permafrost thaw and so on are all connected and will soon cascade into wilder and hotter (and in some cases much colder) weather and climate, creating unliveable circumstances for billions of us. Many have already tasted the whiplash of extreme weather, especially the farmers who have to deal with it day in day out.



Water, the lifeblood of our planet and our bodies, is becoming scarce on land. We are drying out the land with the wrong use of land, destroying soils and forests. Forests are rain makers, over tropical forests as much as 80% of rain is made by forests through evapotranspiration & bioaerosol release. Rivers dry up, while sometimes flooding violently as supersaturated clouds release their water all at once, not subtly regulated by nature. Aquifers are depleted, and once-fertile lands turn barren and much hotter than with forest or natural vegetation cover.

The dieback of the Amazon has started and we have limited time to restore her to health. If we don't do that the resulting food and water shortages will spark social unrest, fueling conflicts over dwindling resources and intensifying migration as people flee uninhabitable regions. Security systems buckle under the strain, unable to cope with the cascading impacts of these crises. Fearing for the future, people turn to draconian strongmen

to resolve the crisis.

The solution lies in reviving nature itself. By protecting and restoring ecosystems, rebuilding forests, wetlands, and grasslands, as well as reviving ocean biology and transitioning to sustainable food production with less meat consumption, reduces these stresses fast.

The time to act is now. Only by working together to nurture the planet back to abundance can we prevent this mega-crisis from engulfing us all. The future of humanity depends on the restoration of nature everywhere. Let's Go! [hashtag#GreenUpToCoolDown](#) .



The Earth Charter movement - <https://earthcharter.org/>

Aims and Objectives:

Earth Charter Movement is one of our alliance partners. They acknowledge that the world is currently standing at a critical moment for humanity, as we must recognise the unity in the shared destiny to all of us who call earth home.

They summarise their goals as being to;

1. Raise awareness of the sustainability vision that is articulated in the Earth Charter and promote understanding of its inclusive ethical vision.
2. Promote the adoption and use of the Earth Charter as an ethical reference and guide to be turned into action.
3. Encourage and support the educational use of the Earth Charter.
4. Promote the use of the Earth Charter as a soft law document.

The outline of their strategic objectives is;

1. Facilitate a global network of Earth Charter supporters and activists with the collaboration of advisors, affiliates, volunteers and partner organizations.
2. Create and disseminate high-quality communications and educational materials for the use of millions of people to use.
3. Ensure that the Earth Charter serves as an instrument and a guide in efforts to tackle urgent challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and conflict resolution.
4. Organize training programmes to put the Earth Charter in action.

The Earth Charter movement believe that there are four foundational needs for the global society to adopt to ensure a sustainable future:

- Respect and Care for the Community of Life:
- Ecological Integrity:
- Social and Economic Justice:
- Democracy, Nonviolence, and Peace:

The key challenges that the Earth Charter movement are trying to overcome are:

- Environmental devastation
- Resource Depletion
- Mass extinction of species
- Social injustice and poverty
- Unsustainable consumption patterns

It is a core belief of the movement that we must choose to form a global partnership to care for each other, and the Earth. This would involve adopting fundamental changes on our values and ways of living.

This would require a universal responsibility of interconnected solutions with shared values and ethical principles; involving a reverence for nature, and a human solidarity and kinship towards all life forms.

The movement promotes methods to affirm these interdependent principles. This relied on the collaboration of society, from the individual and business level, through to government and transnational institutions. Through this, a sustainable way of life can be achieved that ensures the wellbeing of us as people, as well as the larger living world.

You can sign up for their free newsletter in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

They also offer online courses that offer emerging environmental leaders' helpful information of sustainable development, leadership, and much more.

Key Dates:

Keep an eye out on their Earth Charter event which will be held in the Netherlands, July 2025. This will focus on planetary consciousness, the ethics of care and intergenerational Justice.
