



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2023 #09 --- September 2023

*The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) . Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.*

### Editorial

*Hello to all our readers,*

*As we welcome the spring breeze and the blooming of new life, September arrives with a sense of rejuvenation and a strong reminder of our responsibilities towards Mother Earth.*

*In a world where environmental challenges are ever-present, September presents us with a moment to reflect on the positive impact we can collectively create. From championing ozone layer preservation for International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (16th) to advocating for organic choices for National Organic Week (18th-24th), our actions shape the future of our planet. Every small change we make has a ripple effect - inspiring others to join us on the path towards a greener and more sustainable world.*

*I hope you enjoy the insightful articles by our talented researchers and wish you all an environmentally conscious September!*

*Kind regards,*

*Daniela Dal'Castel, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.*

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## 2023 Environmental Observances

### September

- 1-31 [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 1 [National Wattle Day](#)
- [National Walk to Work Day](#) (TBC)
- 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 9 **HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting, Toowoomba QLD**
- 10 [National Bilby Day](#) (Charleville Bilby Festival)
- 18-24 [National Organic Week](#)
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 24 [World Rivers Day](#)
- 28 [World Maritime Day](#)
- 29 [International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#)

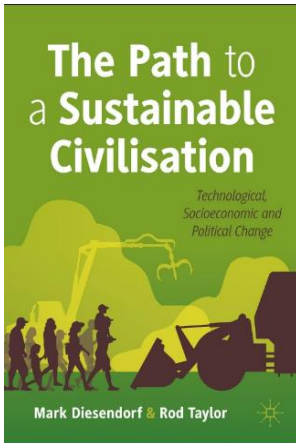
### October

- 1-7 [Australian Wildlife Week](#)
- 3 [World Habitat Day](#)
- 13 [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)
- 14 [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (and 13 May)
- 16 [World Food Day](#)
- 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- 17-23 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#) (tbc)
- 18 [National Ride-2-Work Day](#)
- 24 [United Nations Day](#)

### November

- 5 [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#)
  - 13-19 [Pollinator Week](#)
  - 6-12 [National Recycling Week](#)
  - 10 [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#)
  - 21 [World Fisheries Day](#)
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## Book Review



**BOOK REVIEW: THE PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE CIVILISATION - Technological, Socioeconomic and Political Change, by Mark Diesendorf, Associate Professor, UNSW Sydney and Rod Taylor, science writer and broadcaster. Published (July 2023) by Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 9789819906628. See also: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-981-99-0663-5>**

### The importance of this book

The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation is a great book which should be required reading for every individual and group concerned with supporting the cause of environmental protection and restoration. Those important objectives are key contributions toward creating a genuinely sustainable future in our region and globally. To be clear, that would be a future which would be far more ecologically healthy and socially fair. A future which would leave no human being behind. And yet, despite some of the best- and well-intentioned endeavours of many of us, that

is not the future we are currently headed for. Rather the reverse.

### Some key messages in the book

The well worded, succinct overview of the book's key messages, from the official publisher's introduction, offers compelling explanations for how we got ourselves into such a serious and failing predicament. I quote the passage here, verbatim.

*The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation shows that we have unwittingly fallen into an existential crisis of our own making. We have allowed large corporations, the military and other vested interests to capture governments and influence public opinion excessively. We have created a God called 'the market' and allowed our most important decisions to be made by this imaginary entity, which is in fact a human system controlled by vested interests. The result has been the exploitation of our life support system, our planet, and most of its inhabitants, to the point of collapse.*

*This book argues that the way out of our black hole is to build social movements to apply overwhelming pressure on government and big business, weaken the power of vested interests and strengthen democratic decision-making. This must be done simultaneously with action on the specific issues of climate, energy, natural resources, and social justice, in order to transition to a truly sustainable civilisation' (Springer Nature Singapore, May 2023)*

This is not the first book or analysis to propose underlying, system level failures of our economic, environmental and social institutions as the ultimate causes and drivers of the multiple and interlinked crises we face. It is, however, one of the most clear-sighted, authoritative, and well received accounts of what is required to tackle those failures, and to move us on to a path which avoids the existential threats looming over our current, clearly unsustainable civilisation. Both Australian authors are well qualified to write on such topics, having researched, published and broadcast extensively on subjects including new economic approaches to achieving sustainability, climate change challenges and renewable energy solutions.

A further value of the Path to a Sustainable Civilisation book in my opinion is that its central arguments resonate closely with work that Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) undertook independently and circulated regionally in February and March of 2023. At that time, we were seeking local and regional expressions of interest in a proposal to form a common cause environmental support group coalition; to tackle system level institutional failings in this place. It is gratifying to think that even as the Path to a Sustainable Civilisation book was taking final shape, and unbeknown to us, HOPE was giving our own considered response to some of the same, system level, economic, political, and governance failings described in the Path to a Sustainable Civilisation book.

Within our own conversation starter and report documents, produced to support our coalition proposals, HOPE put forward its own ideas related to system level, strategic response to the serious problems of institutional capture, the distorting power of false narratives of progress, the baseless propaganda of neoliberal economics; and a consequent, crucial need for a major coalition of environment support groups to help tackle such deep-seated drivers of environmental damage and destruction.

We believe that our original work on the common cause coalition proposal, with its diverse range of suggestions for the functions of such a coalition, sits well with the premises contained within the Path to a Sustainable

Civilisation book. And whilst HOPE focussed exclusively on the possible adoption of aligned ideas by local and regional environment support groups, we feel validated that our own analysis and proposals resonate with those contained in such an eminent and critically well-received book as PTSC, written by such knowledge experts in their fields.

### **A powerful analogy taken from the book**

The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation is a truthful, brave and inspiring book which contains an interesting analogy for our own times, based upon the 1912 Titanic iceberg sinking tragedy. The book points to an analysis that some of the ultimate causes of the Titanic disaster were linked to irresponsible corporate pressure. For instance, the pressure to pursue dangerous vessel speeds in a known area of navigational risk. To enhance future brand profitability. In influential quarters, there was a single-minded commercial imperative combined with delusional belief in the existence of an unsinkable ship. Serious problems created by naked greed tied into a rampant profit motive - combining with a delusional faith in the primacy of technology to save us. Does this sound familiar?

The book also reminds us that the massive loss of life on the Titanic hit the lowest class of passengers the hardest. An additional echo there of the disproportionate environmental impacts suffered in our own times by poorer and more marginalised communities around the globe.

I close this review by extending the Path to a Sustainable Civilisation book's analogy of the Titanic sinking by posing a few imaginative questions. What metaphorical 'class of passenger' might we be? Specifically, those of us working within the environmental protection space, locally, regionally or nationally? And what is our proper role in relation to our fellow 'passengers.' For we are surely steaming full ahead toward the 21st-century equivalent of the iceberg that will, inevitably, cause disaster and massive loss of life, unless we change course.

So, can we use the wise precepts given to us in The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation? Can we organise a non-violent mutiny on board our metaphorical vessel, the good ship Environmental Protection? Can we compel the captain or captains to slow down and chart a less dangerous course? Or are we simply going to resign ourselves to our fate as passive sailors who may well go down, inevitably, with the global ship of fools?

### **Additional learning resources associated with 'The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation.'**

For those of you who might want to further reflect on the arguments contained in this book, without obtaining the volume itself in the first instance, there are number of resources you might connect with.

There is a website developed to accompany the book also entitled [The Path to a Sustainable Civilisation](#) which contains a number of book reviews, text articles and other media which has been developed since the book's, initial promotion and official launch between May and July of this year.

A couple of podcasts related to the book may also interest you. The authors, Mark Disendorf and Rod Taylor can be heard in conversation about the book [recorded in mid-May](#) of 2023. There is also a recording of the official book launch [held in mid-July](#) 2023 in Canberra. This also contains a stellar introductory contribution from renowned Australia Institute economist Richard Dennis.

**HOPE's earlier work on proposing a Common Cause Environment Support Group Coalition (CCESGC)** completed in February 2023.

Use the [Google Drive link here](#) to a folder containing:

HOPE CCESGC proposal conversation starter (1300 words)  
CCESGC full essay (7500 words)  
CCESGC PowerPoint (nine slide) presentation (PDF version)  
CCESGC PowerPoint accompanying slide notes.

As always (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) welcomes any and all feedback relevant to this article.

*(Written by Andrew Nicholson, HOPE senior researcher Qld)*

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## Feature Article

### Jerry Coleby-Williams, English conservationist and horticulturalist

Written by Anna Kula, HOPE Researcher QLD

#### England, c.1982-92

Jerry Coleby-Williams has an impressive resume and has achieved much in the field of horticulture both in the UK and Australia; from working in one of the greatest gardens in the world to discovering new plant species, presenting 'Gardening Australia', being the Director of Seed Savers Network and Executive Member of the Queensland Conservation Council, establishing new gardens and remodelling the gardens of Sydney for the 2000 Olympic Games. Jerry's accomplishments are nothing short of spectacular!

Jerry was born in London and completed his training with the Royal Horticultural Society proceeding to work at the Royal Botanic "Kew" Gardens, home to the "largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world". In 1982 The Kew awarded Jerry a scholarship to study the flora of Western Australia where, while photographing plants, he discovered *Darwinia polychroma*, a new and endangered species. After "realising that bushland I visited had been pretty much unspoiled by industry – something that no European can ever experience in their native lands" Jerry made the decision to emigrate to Sydney in 1992.



#### Sydney, 1992- 2003



In Sydney Jerry helped establish Mt Annan Botanic Garden, managed the botanical estate at the Royal Botanic Gardens in preparation for the 2000 Olympics, supported the creation of major educational gardens and consulted for several city garden renovation projects, including Darling Park, Victoria Park, the Conservatorium of Music, Macquarie Square, the NSW Police Memorial, Central Station, St Mary's Cathedral, First Fleet Park, East Circular Quay and the Sydney International Airport.

Jerry's work extended outside of Sydney as he consulted for Queensland Conservation's first 'National Food policy' and Queensland's 'Grey Water policy'. Jerry drafted the proposed management of bushland weeds policy for Lord Howe Island; as well as a plan of management for the Pesticide Facility (Sydney) shifting towards organic pest management - which have been adopted by the Brisbane Mt Coot-tha and Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

In 2001 Jerry was asked to consult for the inaugural 'ABC Gardening Australia Live' expo at Homebush NSW. This was the first major gardening expo held in Sydney with exhibits from televised gardening shows, international exhibitors, and the largest show garden of native plants from the Northern Territory (at the time). Over 42,000 people attended the expo with a record number of exhibitors re-booked for the following year.

Jerry has written for 'Gardening Australia' and 'The Organic Gardener' magazines as well as the illustrated dictionary of garden plants 'Flora'. Jerry has presented on 'Gardening Australia' the gardening TV show and has been a guest speaker on numerous gardening radio shows and for gardening societies across Australia. Jerry has presented extensively at both horticultural and conservational conferences since 2002.



## Brisbane, 2003



In 2003 Jerry moved to Bayside Brisbane and established 'Bellis' a model 1914 retrofitted sustainable house and garden, with Jeff Poole, a post-sustainability consultant. In 2003 Bellis was the first suburban house with a domestic wastewater treatment system installed; with the bulk of the household's food being grown using treated wastewater. Jerry has drawn from his experiences at Bellis to advise Queensland's Minister for Water how to improve the Grey Water Use policy based on how to help fellow Queenslanders during drought.

Bellis grows food, harvests solar energy, and collects rainwater which is treated and reused. Sewage is processed on site. Treated, sterilised wastewater is used to flush the toilet and irrigate garden produce.

Bellis was retrofitted with appropriate systems and its land recultivated for optimal plant growth and resilience to the two weather extremes - drought and floods. Onsite water management consists of a 21,000 litre in-ground tank for rainwater harvesting, wastewater system to recycle water back onto the property, land drainage system (agricultural pipe underground) for rainwater tank overflow, planted porous pit to act as stormwater infiltration, well -designed lawn to capture heavy rain and water permeable paths. The house also has a 900w solar system.

The garden now boasts a 'water-wise' ornamental garden with drought-resistant native plants at the front and a productive garden at the back with eight 10sqm garden beds and fruit trees.



### 'Bellis', 2009-2017

All of Jerry's hard work at Bellis continues to bear fruit as Bellis won the National Save Water Award in the Built Environment category in 2009. In 2012 Jerry discovered two new undescribed species of parasitoid wasp at Bellis which were added to the Atlas of Living Australia.



Jerry has used his experiences living and shaping Bellis to document gardening segments, one such video 'How to Create Your Own Plant Cultivar' was awarded an HMAA Television Laurel Award in 2011. In 2017 Bellis was announced as a finalist in the Banksia Sustainability Awards.

*Jerry continues working, consulting and presenting across a wide range of forums, networks and organisations. You can read about his work and projects at Bellis and beyond on his website <https://jerry-coleby-williams.net/>.*

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### Land for Wildlife SEQ

Land for Wildlife started in Victoria over 40 years ago in response to declining numbers of birds on farms. Conservationists and farmers banded together to build a program that would help reinstate habitat for birds on farms and upskill landholders to look after wildlife habitat. Hence, Land for Wildlife was born.

The program came to Queensland in 1998 led by a group of Local Government Officers in South East Queensland (SEQ). All Local Governments in SEQ have adopted the program as part of their core business for environmental outcomes and for building positive relationships with the community. Together, the Local Governments work collaboratively guided by a Ten-Year Strategic Plan.

Land for Wildlife is also delivered nationally.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program that encourages and assists landholders to manage wildlife habitat on their properties. Through Land for Wildlife, you can learn about native plants, animals and ecosystems on your property, and get advice on managing threats such as weeds and pest animals. You will have the chance to meet other Land for Wildlife members – there are nearly 7,000 of them in SEQ.

The cornerstone of the Land for Wildlife program is a one-on-one visit by your local Land for Wildlife Officer. They'll help you develop a personalised plan for your property to help integrate nature conservation with other activities such as residential use and grazing.

And the best thing about Land for Wildlife is that it is free. The program recognises that the benefits of conservation on private land extends well beyond the property gate.

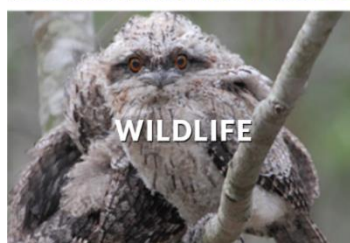
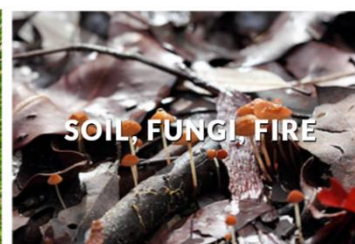
After 25 years, the Land for Wildlife SEQ program remains the fastest growing network of landholders involved in private land conservation in Australia!

Land for Wildlife SEQ is a network of over 5400 properties (as of July 2023) being managed for nature conservation. Most of the members live on their properties, but some are weekenders while others are schools, golf courses and government corporations. Some Land for Wildlife members also integrate grazing, horticultural or tourism with nature conservation on their properties.

There are over 35 Land for Wildlife Officers across SEQ, employed by 13 Local Governments (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Gympie, Ipswich, Lockyer Valley, Logan, Moreton Bay, Noosa, Redland, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba). They work collaboratively through a regional network that develops initiatives, products and services for all Land for Wildlife members in SEQ.

For further information about Land for Wildlife, contact one of the participating local government areas below:

- [Brisbane City Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [City of Gold Coast - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Gympie Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Ipswich City Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Lockyer Valley Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Logan City Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Moreton Bay Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Noosa Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Redland City Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Scenic Rim Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Somerset Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Sunshine Coast Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)
- [Toowoomba Regional Council - Land for Wildlife \(lfwseq.org.au\)](http://lfwseq.org.au)




(Information for this article extracted from [Land for Wildlife - lfwseq.org.au](http://Land for Wildlife - lfwseq.org.au))


Holistic Management  
Regenerative agriculture  
Wildlife Caring  
Weaving Social Fabric  
- and other topics

**QUEENSLAND WOMEN**  
(inspiring stories from)  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS**

A podcast series produced for  
Householders' Options to Protect the  
Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia)

Hearing, acknowledging and celebrating the contribution that women of  
the Darling Downs and S.E. Queensland have made and are making to the  
protection and conservation of the environment.

 Funded by the Department of Justice  
and Attorney-General Office for  
Women and Violence Prevention

 A 2023 QLD Women's Week project



## National News

### ***Embracing Laudato Si' and Building Laudato Si' Communities: Join us at Catholic Earthcare Australia***



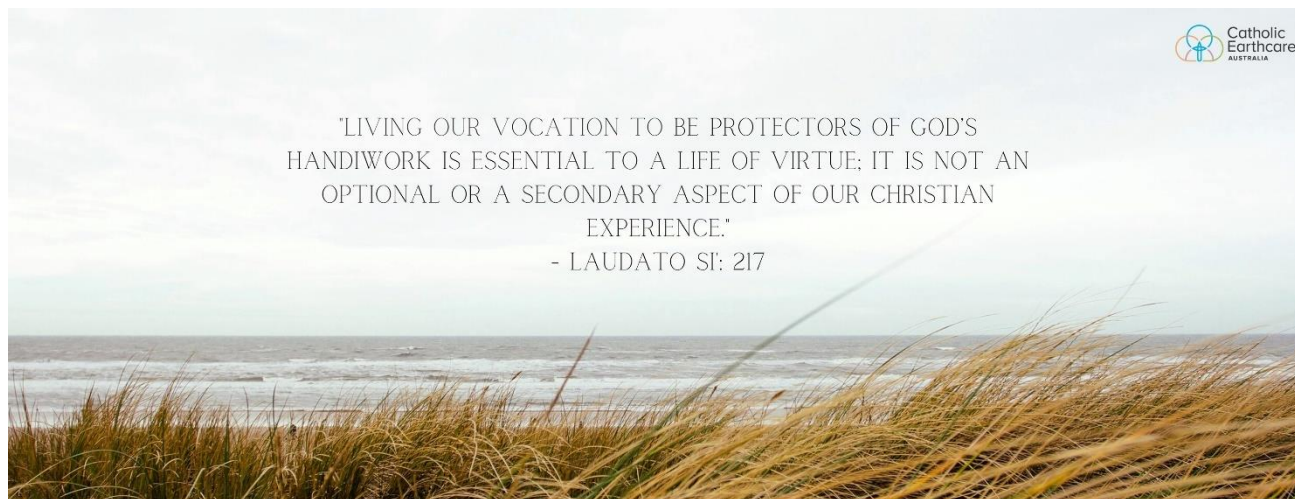
Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are excited to share with you the inspiring journey of Catholic Earthcare, an organization committed to promoting integral ecology, fostering Laudato Si' communities, and empowering parishes and schools to respond to the pressing environmental challenges of our time. As we look ahead to the celebration of the Season of Creation in September this year, it is a perfect time to reflect on our accomplishments and invite others to join our cause.

For over two decades, Catholic Earthcare has been at the forefront of the Catholic Church's mission to protect our common home. With unwavering dedication, we have championed the principles laid out in Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. This profound document calls upon all individuals, communities, and institutions to embrace a new paradigm that acknowledges the interconnectedness of social, environmental, and economic issues.

At the heart of our mission lies the creation of Laudato Si' communities—vibrant and active groups of individuals who are inspired by the encyclical's teachings and work together to foster ecological awareness, sustainable practices, and a sense of stewardship within their local communities. These communities are essential in effecting lasting change and building a more sustainable future for generations to come.

We are proud to announce that the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has recently endorsed our efforts through the Laudato Si' Action Plan of 2023. They have recommended that all Catholic schools and parishes engage with our Catholic Earthcare and create a plan on how to respond to the current ecological crisis. These plans will then be uploaded to the international Laudato Si' Action Platform which helps to track and celebrate the global efforts of the Catholic Church. This significant endorsement highlights the commitment of the Catholic Church in Australia to address the ecological crisis and promote integral ecology as a fundamental aspect of our faith. It is a milestone that strengthens our resolve and energizes us to expand our reach further.



One of the key pillars of Catholic Earthcare's success lies in our engagement with schools and parishes. We are thrilled to have over 300 schools and more than 60 parishes registered as part of our programs. By partnering with educational institutions, we have been able to integrate ecological teachings into the curriculum, shaping the minds and hearts of young students to become responsible stewards of creation.

Through our parish initiatives, we have encouraged local faith communities to embrace ecological conversion and make practical changes within their places of worship. By adopting sustainable practices and promoting eco-friendly initiatives, parishes have become beacons of hope, inspiring their members to live in harmony with nature and protect our planet.





## THE GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

Caring for God's creation, the poor and future generations

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming Season of Creation, which takes place each year from September 1st to October 4th. This special time invites people of faith from around the world to come together, celebrate, and take action for the environment. It is an occasion to deepen our spiritual connection with creation, raise awareness about ecological issues, and engage in concrete initiatives that promote sustainable living.

During the Season of Creation, Catholic Earthcare will be organizing various events, workshops, and community activities. We invite you to join us in these celebrations, as we reflect on our role as stewards of creation and explore practical ways to address the ecological challenges we face. It is an opportunity to forge new connections, share knowledge and experiences, and be inspired by the collective efforts of individuals and communities across the globe.

Catholic Earthcare has been an unwavering force for positive change for over 20 years. With the endorsement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the growing support of schools, parishes, and individuals like you, we are poised to make an even greater impact in the years to come. Together, let us build *Laudato Si'* communities, embrace integral ecology, and work towards a more sustainable and just world. Join us in celebrating the Season of Creation and be part of a movement that brings hope, renewal, and healing to our planet.

For more information about our programs and upcoming events, please visit [catholicearthcare.org.au](http://catholicearthcare.org.au)



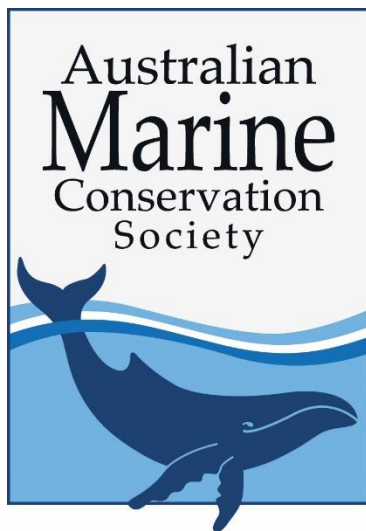
*"Fossil fuels, especially coal  
need to be replaced."*  
Pope Francis.  
Coal communities need  
a just transition now



## Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)

### When and why was AMCS established?

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is Australia's leading national charity dedicated solely to protecting our precious oceans and marine life. We are an independent charity, staffed by a committed group of scientists, educators and passionate advocates who have defended Australia's oceans since 1965.



AMCS works on the big issues that risk our ocean wildlife. We have protected critical ocean ecosystems with marine reserves around the nation, including Ningaloo and the Great Barrier Reef. We have led the movement to ban whaling, stopped supertrawlers, and protected threatened and endangered species such as the Australian sea lion.

AMCS was established by a group of scientists concerned about overfishing and coastal pollution as the Queensland Littoral Society, reflecting their initial concerns about the area between the high and low tide. Later we broadened our focus to national issues as the Australian Littoral Society and in the mid-1990s changed our name to embrace the whole marine environment.

In the early years we established an active program for carrying out underwater fish counts on reefs which proved crucial in saving a number of coral reef areas from coral mining for limestone. This victory broadened out into a campaign to protect the Great Barrier Reef which culminated in the formation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park World Heritage Area – one of the greatest natural wonders of the world.

### Why is protecting the seas around Australia so important?

- Oceans are so important for life, covering two-thirds of the planet. They feed us, amaze us and regulate the climate, but we have treated them poorly.
- Our oceans are overused and under-protected. Pollution, global warming and industrialisation are threatening their future and the marine wildlife that call them home.
- Australians have a special connection to the ocean, with over 87% of us living within 50km of the coast.
- Australia's oceans contain the richest, most diverse life on Earth. much of which is found nowhere else on the planet. Our ocean is a global biodiversity hotspot.
- We have six of the seven species of marine turtles, 45 of the world's 78 whale and dolphin species, and 4,000 fish species – 20% of the global total. We have more than 320 different species of sharks and rays, and 70 of these species are unique to Australia.
- Bordering three mighty oceans, the Pacific, the Indian and the Southern Ocean, Australia has the third largest marine territory in the world. Our national waters cover an area bigger than our land.
- Our northern oceans are some of the last remaining healthy tropical seas in the world. In our cool southern oceans, an incredible 80% of the marine species there occur nowhere else on Earth.
- This means that if we lose them from our waters, they are lost from the world forever.

## **Our campaign focus: Create a clean energy future, giving our Reefs the best chance of survival**

Global warming is the Great Barrier Reef's greatest threat, driving the marine heatwaves that lead to the damaging mass bleaching events that have struck the Reef in recent years. Australia has an outsized impact on climate, responsible for 5% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Queensland alone contributes a third of Australia's emissions and is ranked third highest in the world per capita.

Governments must combat climate change by drastically cutting emissions to limit global warming to 1.5°C – a critical threshold for corals. Every fraction of a degree matters. Queensland must increase its woefully inadequate emissions reduction target.

We work on improving Australia's ambitions to reduce emissions and trying to stop new coal and offshore oil and gas developments through legal and policy mechanisms. Our campaigners work with directly affected communities that care about Australia's natural environment.

# I want our seas plastic free



## **Our campaign focus: Marine Park protections and re-establish Australia as a world leader in marine conservation**

Our oceans are overused and under-protected. Marine Protected Areas, often called marine parks in Australia, are areas of the ocean set aside to protect and restore marine biodiversity.

Marine sanctuaries are highly protected areas within marine parks – free from activities like mining and fishing – that are fundamental for ensuring the future of our oceans.

Scientists say that we need to protect at least 30% of our global oceans within well-connected networks of highly protected marine sanctuaries, by 2030.

Right now, sanctuary areas cover 17% of Australia's waters, but there are major gaps in the network and many vital habitats remain unprotected.

We are working on increasing our networks of marine sanctuaries – in both Commonwealth and coastal state waters – to ensure all types of ocean ecosystems are protected. And we need to champion marine protection in areas beyond national borders – the high seas.

## **Our campaign focus: Threatened marine life, like whales, dolphins and turtles**





Australians love our whales, seals and marine turtles, but these iconic species are at risk from a range of impacts, including overfishing, pollution and climate change. Many of our marine mammals have suffered from historical hunting and over-exploitation, and are now legally recognised as threatened.

Some of the species threatened with extinction in Australian waters include the Australian sea lion, sea turtles, dugongs, dolphins, whales, sawfish and sharks.

Examples of our work include funding critically endangered sawfish rescue in the Northern Territory, construction of a turtle hospital to help turtle rescue and rehabilitation, advocacy to end the catch and drowning of threatened species in fishing nets, tackling plastic pollution that is tangling and choking marine species.

### **Our campaign focus: Stop plastic pollution at the source**

With 8 million tonnes of plastic dumped into our oceans every year, our marine life is swallowing more plastic than ever — and it's killing them.

Unless urgent action is taken, plastics in the ocean are expected to triple in the next 20 years as global plastics production escalates. More than half of all seabirds and turtles have plastic in their stomachs, and more than 90% of marine species have been impacted by ocean plastics. Plastics are the largest, most harmful and most persistent fraction of marine litter, accounting for at least 85 per cent of total marine waste. Globally, just 15% of plastics are collected for recycling, with less than 9% actually recycled after losses.

We are working on stopping plastic pollution at its source, like banning single-use plastics and supporting global plastics treaty negotiations, and encouraging investment in recycling.



### **Our campaign focus: Reform Australia's Fisheries**

Our oceans are not an endless resource. In a world with an ever-expanding population, we need to ensure that we maintain healthy oceans while we're taking from the sea, so that we can ensure a future full of fish for generations to come.

We need responsible fisheries with sustainable practices that ensure an abundance of fish for the future.

Commercial fishing using trawlers, gillnets and longlines puts our ocean wildlife at risk. Snubfin dolphins and dugongs drown in gillnets set in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to catch barramundi. Seabirds and turtles are killed on longlines set to catch tuna. Endangered sawfish are killed in trawlers across our tropical north.

Our super-easy GoodFish Guide can tell you whether you're buying fish from a sustainable industry and even suggests alternatives to unsustainable options.

### **Websites:**

Australian Marine Conservation Society, Australia's leading national charity dedicated solely to protecting our precious oceans and marine life. - [www.marineconservation.org.au](http://www.marineconservation.org.au)

AMCS's GoodFish Guide can tell you whether you're buying fish from a sustainable industry and even suggests alternatives to unsustainable options. - [www.GoodFish.org.au](http://www.GoodFish.org.au)

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## International News

### Plastic Oceans

by Julie Mammitzsch, HOPE Researcher NSW



Eight million tons of plastic are dumped into our ocean every year! And the very worst, plastic doesn't break down, it only breaks up- transforming into microplastics which become part of our food chain, severely affecting our health as well as all ocean animals' health.

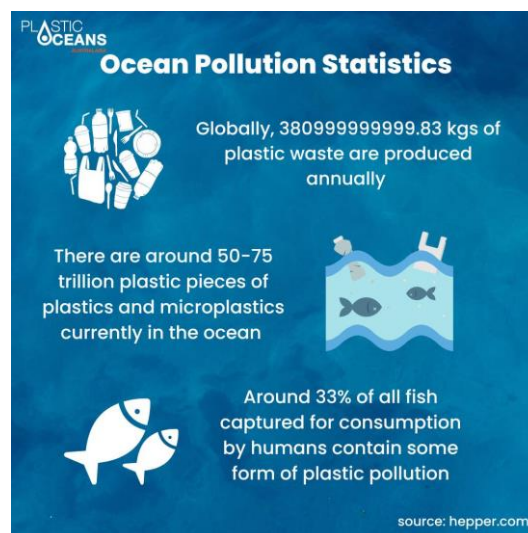
**Plastic Oceans Australasia** is a registered charity organisation working eagerly towards the reduction of plastic pollution in the Australasia region. Established in 2017, they are following the vision of 'changing the world's attitude to plastic within one generation.'

A collaboration of environmentalists, scientists, educators, and volunteers are tightly working together to raise awareness about the impacts that ocean pollution causes on our health and environment. The charity organisation offers school programs, strategies for more sustainable business, as well as webinars and different themed events. In 2022 their school programs were delivered to more than 40.000 students in New Zealand and Australia. It provides guidance on how to minimize waste within the campus and students' everyday life. 18.000 employees attended the EPIC (Engagement in Plastic Free Innovation for Change) programs in 2022. EPIC focuses on reducing and eventually eliminating plastic waste within businesses and communities.

Register your interest in either program under the following link if you feel inspired to create change:  
<https://www.plasticoceans.org.au/register-eoi>

Plastic Oceans Australasia produced its own documentary in 2016 - *A Plastic Ocean- We Need a Wave of Change*. It was directed and written by Craig Leeson, featuring Tanya Streeter, a world-champion free driver. The documentary highlights the role of the ocean as a life-supporting system, the risks plastic waste displays to our health, and scientific solutions for the effective recycling of plastic.

Learn more about the way plastics travel within our oceans, its drastic effects on our hormone levels, the island Tuvalu that is currently faced with massive rubbish problems and how *the Plastic Bank* makes plastic a new currency! - It is definitely worth a watch and is available for free on YouTube for anyone interested:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yog7qmGZIIQ>



Other current projects include: 'Unpacking Plastic in the Workplace', 'The Plastic Fish Project' and 'Impact of PPE on Plastic Waste'.

#### References:

- Plastic Oceans (2023), available: <https://www.plasticoceans.org.au/a-plastic-ocean> [accessed 26/06/2023].
- Craig Leeson (2016) '*a plastic ocean*' [video], available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yog7qmGZIIQ> [accessed: 26/06/2023].





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