



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2023 #12 --- December 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. Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month.

Editorial

Welcome to the December issue of the newsletter! This month we focus on climate change. As we move into the hot summer months, it's important to think why our summers are getting hotter. We are in the midst of a climate emergency and the time is now to take urgent action. The National Centre for Climate Restoration Australia (Breakthrough), Beyond Zero Emissions and the Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network could assist with any enquiries. In this edition, we also see the closure of Green Harvest Organic Gardening Supplies. I hope that you see out the end of the year well informed on climate change and inspired to make change.

Kind regards,
Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2023 Environmental Observances

December

- 5 [World Soil Day](#)
- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
- 5-10 [Coastcare Week](#) (TBC)
- 11 [International Mountain Day](#)

Annual Pledge/Donation

<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

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.

Office closure over Christmas-New Year holiday period

*The office will be closed over the Christmas – New Year period
from 5pm Friday 15 December 2023
and will reopen at 9am on Monday 15 January 2024.*

Office News

Volunteer Profile – Nina Sick, HOPE Newsletter Editor



I am an environmental scientist who has worked with government and the private sector in conservation and sustainability. I also have a strong interest in organics and toxicology and am involved with GM-Free Alliance Australia. I have written several articles on toxins in our everyday lives for the HOPE e: newsletter. I also produced a booklet called *How to live sustainably and chemical-free* which reflects on how I live my life and what I have learnt in the environmental field and personally.

As the new Newsletter Editor, I look forward to receiving your contributions/suggestions towards “Letters to the Editor,” items for Bouquets & Brickbats! and any Helpful Hints and/or useful Resource contacts.

President’s Report for 2023

Good morning,

Having at my disposal the weekly Office Updates which were then consolidated in quarterly reports, I was able to quickly compile information for this annual report – highlighting the significant achievements and the occasional lowlight.

But this time around, I would to focus on the work of the Management Committee and the Admin Support Team under the following headings:

- Office activities;
- Grants; and
- Projects

Office activities

I’d like to thank the Management Committee and Admin Support Team for their efforts maintaining a good standard of delivery with our monthly newsletters; social media postings; media releases and feature articles; website maintenance; and general office duties.

Highlights include:

- 12 newsletters issued (Daniela Dal’Castel)
 - After several years as newsletter editor, Daniela is stepping down. I thank her for dedicated contribution.
 - Nina Stick (WA) has volunteered to take on the newsletter editor’s role
- 10 media releases issued (Jason Dingley); and 3 radio interviews given (Frank Ondrus)
- 6 feature articles issued (HOPE members and guests)
- 3 submissions made
- Social media (Charmaine Turnbull and Liam Carroll)
 - Facebook – 1131 | Twitter – 1366 | Instagram – 122 | LinkedIn - 216
- 5 HOPE meetings held throughout the year – 3 Ordinary Meetings, Strategic Planning meeting; and our AGM
- 09/07 Special meeting of HOPE Public Fund committee to add Mark Whitelegg to the committee as Dr Mark Copland has stepped down, due to his move to WA
- Attended 6 non-HOPE meetings (both physical & ZOOM)
- Provided 2 information displays: Amaroo EEC’s *Sustainability Showcase* event (18/03/23); and World Science Festival Queensland at the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba (21-22/05/23)
- Website – Transfer of hosting and Domain name registration to Communications & Computer Support (CCS)
 - this exercise is nearing completion
- Membership: Currently, we have 103 full members and 384 associate members (i.e., 487 in total).
- Volunteers: Currently, we have 16 active volunteers. This year we recruited 21 new volunteers, but then lost 20 volunteers (mostly from the newer recruits).

Grants - received

- 2023 Qld Women’s Week project: *Acknowledging the contribution that Women of the Darling Downs have made and are making to Protecting and Conservation the Environment* (funding received from the Qld Govt’s Office for Women)

- Thanks to Kerry Kruger for producing the 'booklet of profiles' and to Andrew Nicholson for producing the series of podcasts
- Nest Boxes project (funding received from Qld Govt's Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF): The Toowoomba West Men's Shed (TWMS) was engaged to build 150 nest boxes for birds and other tree-dwelling animals. 90 nest boxes have been built and distributed to local/regional landcare and related groups – as well as to several wildlife carers.

Grants - pending

Online applications have been made to:

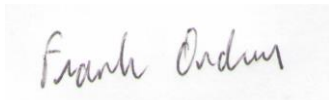
- Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) – reactivated application for 1 laptop
- Federal Government's 'Volunteer Grants' program – Expression of Interest (Eoi) for 2 laptops
- Queensland Community Foundation – upgrade of website

Projects – current

- Jan 2023 Conducted 2 drone flyovers - – Highfields Falls Park (Highfields) and Dingo Mountain Conservation Area (Crows Nest)
- 19/04/23 Weeds Forum: Some 50-60 people were present to listen to 6 speakers talk about "Weeds: What are they? Where are they? And, how do we deal with them? Thanks to our sponsors the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) and SQ (Southern Queensland) Landscape.
- Commission from Biodynamic Agriculture Australia (BAA) Ltd: Due to the success of our Qld Women's Week project, Louise Skidmore, Company Secretary of BBA Ltd, has commissioned us to produce a 'Booklet of Profiles' and a podcast series featuring 6 members of their organisation. Anna Kula is responsible for developing the booklet; and Andrew Nicholson is producing the podcast series.

I wish the incoming Management Committee and Admin Support Team all the best for 2023-2024.

Regards,



Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

Office Bearers for 2023-2024 Management Committee and Admin Support Team

- Management Committee
 - President - Frank Ondrus
 - Secretary - Kerry Kruger
 - Treasurer - Miriam Sharp
- Ordinary members who fulfil administration support roles as:
 - Office Manager - Frank Ondrus
 - Newsletter Editor* - Nina Stick
 - Website Administrator* - Yaoyao Jiang
 - Media officer* - Jason Dingley)
 - 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.)
 - Anna Kula, Nisha Wajid, Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, Jigna Ghosh, Samy Leyton, Maggie Ng, Andrew Nicholson, Mazibar Rahman, Nadean Kelly, Amanda Ainley and Jason Joubert
- * - These positions can be undertaken remotely by phone and email communication.
- Nomination of Patron: Jerry Coleby-Williams (from ABC's Gardening Australia program)
 - ➔ *Moved by Andrew Nicholson, seconded by Charmaine Turnbull. Agreed by all present.*
- Nomination of auditor: JG Audit & Assurance
 - ➔ *Moved by Charmaine Turnbull, seconded by Andrew Nicholson. Agreed by all present.*

Feature Articles

Climate Emergency Declaration - <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, HOPE Researcher ACT



Main Aims

The goal of the Climate Emergency Declaration is for governments to declare a climate emergency, sufficiently mobilise society wide resources to protect civilisation, the economy, people, species and ecosystems. The need for this declaration is urgent.

The frightening spike in global temperatures during February 2016 and the bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef are the impetus for demanding that our leaders take a stand on climate.

The Climate Emergency Declaration insists that this time is now and are calling all Australian Councils, state governments and federal government to declare a climate emergency, use resources and take urgent action.

The Campaign goal is for governments to declare a climate emergency and mobilise society-wide resources at sufficient scale and speed to protect civilisation, the economy, people, species, and ecosystems.

To achieve this goal, the Climate Emergency Declaration:

- Creates public awareness of the climate **emergency**, how it threatens life and the urgent need for appropriate action.
- Demand that governments **declare** a climate emergency as a public signal and ensure that society is prepared and placed in emergency mode until the crisis passes.
- Demanding a climate **mobilisation** of sufficient scale and rate to protect everything that is necessary. War-time mobilisation examples demonstrate how rapidly and systematically 'business-as-usual' and 'reform-as-usual' can change. A further illustration of the important of rising to the challenge of dealing with an existential threat.

Major Achievements

- A global movement: with hundreds of local governments, universities, businesses, schools, and organisations involved and engaged.
- A striking development in the fight against climate change: many councils have passed motions to dramatically reduce carbon emissions.
- The phrase 'climate emergency has been adopted by Nongovernmental organisations, universities, businesses, business alliances and chambers globally. All of which have made declarations that we are in a climate emergency and have committed to develop transition plans in consultation with wider society.
- Climate Change Declarations in Australia have led to stronger climate response.
- Over 1300 municipalities in 25 countries have now declared an emergency, together with several whole countries and the European Union.

Current projects/campaigns

In Australia and globally, **groups are collaborating or working independently to progress Climate emergency campaigns and have started several petitions:**

- the 'Job One for Humanity' petition which is aimed at declaring a global warming state of emergency.
- "Sign Global Warming Emergency Petitions and Help End Global Warming." Started in 2011, this is potentially the world's longest running climate emergency declaration petition.
- Climate Emergency Coalition, which is a US based initiative.
- David A. Hood: Petitioning Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres, federal government, presidents, prime ministers, chancellors and local governments, mayors, and CEOs of the world. The idea is to lead a worldwide petition demanding all governments declare a planetary and climate emergency.
- Petitions requesting a declaration of emergency to have all nations address the climate crisis accordingly. Stop fossil fuel use and be respectful of the equilibrium of the biosphere to avert catastrophes.
- There are several professional groups and bodies including architects, engineers, lawyers, health, and social workers who have started petitions calling for their umbrella organisations and/or unions to

declare a climate emergency and take urgent action to address the climate crisis. These groups include Lawyers, Social Workers, Engineers, and Architects. To see the Climate Emergency Declaration's supporters, visit their website <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/supporters/>.

For information about how to get involved, about campaigns, launching petitions or launching your action group, please visit the Climate Emergency Declaration website <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/todo/> or <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/petition> and <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/groups/>.

Additionally, you can access ways to launch your own petition by clicking here <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/todo/launchpetition/> .

The National Centre for Climate Action Restoration Australia (Breakthrough)

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/>

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, HOPE Researcher ACT

Main Aims

The National Centre for Climate Restoration Australia (Breakthrough), is an Australian based non-political party platform and independent think tank. Breakthrough is a leading body in climate restoration aimed at developing the critical thought leadership necessary to influence policy development and the climate debate.

Their mission is to develop and promote the strategy, innovation and analysis needed to supply safe climate restoration. These goals are achieved through collaboration with international and national experts. Breakthrough draws on this expertise and publishes innovative thinkers, produces original communications and hosts engaging events for a wide range of audiences.

Breakthrough enables writers and commentators to provide commentary on and analysis on high end risk management issues and response pathways.

Breakthrough is underpinned by an overarching framework that guides and supports their work as it pertains to science, ethics, economics, politics, and culture. They seek to present a new way or working on the climate crisis.

The key focus areas of research and analysis for Breakthrough are:

- Climate impact and risk assessment
- Rapid emissions elimination
- Large scale greenhouse gas drawdown
- Innovation to prevent current and imminent harm.

Additionally, as Breakthrough aims to achieve safe climate restoration by:

- Performing actions to re-instate natural climate processes that generate average global temperatures and ocean acidity that is safe for all species and civilisation.

For more information about their aims please visit their website at:

<https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/about-1>.

Publications and Papers

Breakthrough have created a series of guides that can be downloaded that explain in-depth about the climate emergency, climate action and reversing global warming. Next to these guides is the option to donate to support climate action.

The titles and describing of these series are as follows:

- Climate Emergency Explored
This guide explains the need for a climate response that parallels the understanding and awareness of the climate emergency that has quickly captured global consciousness.
- Understanding the Climate Emergency and Local Government
This guide focuses on what emergency mode looks like in a climate emergency and what is the role of local government councils. It examines an all-hands-on deck approach to response to existential climate risks.
- How to explain Emergency Mode Climate Action
This guide stresses that an existential threat to human civilisation requires a full-scale emergency response. Additionally, it defines what emergency mode looks like.

- [How to Mobilise for the Climate Emergency](#)
The importance of the role of local communities and councils in helping to build national mobilization in response to climate change.

To access these series of guides, donate or subscribe please visit Breakthrough's website at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/guides>. To subscribe please go to the bottom of the webpage and enter your email address at the subscribe section.

Discussion Papers

Breakthrough has a paper series comprising of discussion papers that can be downloaded. These papers examine and explore critical issues and supplies the evidence based needed to support calls for climate action. It also makes arguments for a new approach, reviews/evaluates previous actions, and draws upon observations and lessons learnt.

The titles of these discussion papers are below and can be accessed on Breakthrough's website at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/papers>:

- Faster, Higher, Hotter: What we have learnt about the climate system in 2022.
- COVID-19 Climate Lessons: Unprepared for the pandemic, can the world learn to manage the bigger threat of climate disruption?
- Australian Government Emergency Declarations: A Preliminary Summary.
- Delivering Maximum Protection: An effective goal for a climate emergency response.
- Climate Contagion: 2020-2025
- The Third Degree: Evidence and implications for Australia of existential climate-related security risk.

Special Features

Breakthrough in collaboration with their commentators and contributors have released special features publications some of these include:

- [Climate Reality Check: Impacts, Risks and Actions](#)
This resource is designed to help climate advocates, practitioners, journalists, business leaders and policymakers to clearly understand the disparity between current climate risks and the inadequate level of climate action.
- [Canary in the Coal Mine: A Former Senior Fossil Fuel Executive Speaks Out](#)
An in-depth collection of published commentaries from the former chair of Australian Coal Association that gives convincing insights into how a former fossil fuel executive has assessed Australian Climate risk and response.

Special features resources can be accessed, viewed and downloaded at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/specialfeatures>.

Reports and Briefings

A recently authored report is *Climate Dominoes: Tipping Points Risks for critical climate systems*. This report provides scientific evidence that critical tipping points are facing serious risks in Antarctica, the Arctic, the Greenland Ice Sheet, Amazon Rainforests and Coral Sheets.

A second report entitled *Climate Emergency Defined: What is a climate emergency and does the evidence justify one*, looks at the evidence around the climate emergency and whether a response is even necessary or feasible. This assessment also looks at the urgency, scale, and timing of risks.

These reports and others are available for download on the Breakthrough website at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/publications>.

Briefings/briefing notes can be accessed at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/briefings>.

Current projects/Campaigns

Breakthrough is producing a new documentary series that documents the existential threat of climate change through the lenses of economic and national security. This analysis will be presented by some of Australia's former security, defence and political leaders who seek to warn us of the impending crisis that is climate change.

Additionally these leaders will stress that climate change is a catalyst for conflict and a threat multiplier, that fuels instability in the most vulnerable parts of the world. It is a crisis that should be taken seriously and addressed with urgency. To view the film or donate please visit their website at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/film>.

For all general inquiries regarding the work of Breakthrough please visit their website on this link. Breakthrough can be contacted on their website at <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/contact>.

Beyond Zero Emissions - <https://www.bze.org.au/>

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, Hope Researcher ACT

Main Aims

Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) are an independent think tank offering optimistic and compelling solutions to encourage industry, political decision makers and regional communities to quicken climate action and turbo charge Australia's shift towards a zero emissions economy.

These goals are achieved through four main ways:

- **Volunteers**
 - The work of BZE is designed to help to foster a cleaner, fairer, safer, and stronger future. BZE is powered and supported by a wide range group of communications, science, economics, business, and finance volunteers. To register your interest in volunteering please visit their website at <https://www.bze.org.au/pages/volunteer>
- **Influential Engagement**
 - Beyond Zero Emissions conducts deep industry engagement using real life examples of climate solutions in regional communities to influence decision makers.
- **Ambitious Research**
 - BZE publishes highly credible and non-partisan research to promote economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- **Compelling Communications**
 - Promote solutions that are compelling and address concerns about decarbonisation and create public understanding that a zero emissions future is in our individual and national interest.

Current campaigns/ projects

- A Renewable Energy Industrial Precinct (REIP) to power the Hunter Region's industry, workforce, and economy. This will enable the hunter region to diversify its' economy and realise its' full potential in a zero emissions economy. By building upon existing skills and infrastructure, REIP will present the Hunter region with a successful investment opportunity. It will also provide more jobs and low-cost firm renewables for households.
- Rapid clean technology deployment to cut Australia's emissions 81% by 2030. This technology is supported by carbon drawdown initiatives and the clean energy rollout. This technology deployment is supported by over 50 established and emerging manufacturers and innovators. The technologies to decarbonise the economy already exist. Currently there are six commercially available technologies that have been proven to quickly reduce carbon emissions and create 195000 regional jobs. This technology deployment is supported by over 50 established and emerging manufacturers and innovators.

These six technologies are:

- 1.Solar panels,
- 2.Wind turbines,
- 3.Heat pumps,
- 4.Batteries and storage
- 5.Electrolysers
6. Electric vehicles

Imperative that in the next 5 years clean technology is installed in households, workplaces, vehicles, and industries and more clean technology is efficiently created and used.

- The National Supergrid presents Australia with a unique nation building opportunity to meet net-zero. It outlines a 5-year grid investment program aimed at delivering sovereign energy, secure supply chains, good quality jobs and lowest cost competitive energy.

This will require private investment in regeneration, cleantech manufacturing and energy storage and prioritising upgrades that promote quick decarbonisation in regional industrial ecosystems. Fast tracking investment into Australia's energy grid will provide the foundation that will enable Australia to become a renewable energy powerhouse in this decade.

The National Supergrid will need to be coordinated by the Australian Government to ensure timely delivery of essential grid infrastructure and to alleviate market uncertainties. Funding is distributed across four areas. These areas are transmission, storage, distribution, and system security and have been drawn from powering Australian programs such as Rewiring Nation and national reconstruction Fund.

The work of BZE is fueled and supported by a wide range of volunteers who provide their expertise in science, engineering, economics, finance, and communications to create climate solutions. To find out more information about volunteering or to register your interest, please visit this website link. <https://www.bze.org.au/pages/volunteer>.

Additionally, BZE are proud members of Climate Action Network Australia, 100% Renewables and Sustainability Victoria.

Major achievements



In line with their vision of creating a lasting tangible impact on the world, BZE has made great achievements across national, regional, and local levels through policy and industry engagement. This can be attributed to undertaking research that has resulted in policy and industry change.

These achievements include:

- **Newcastle and The Hunter's Energy Evolution**
Is a joint initiative between BZE and Out of the Square. It is a video series that highlights on clean technology, innovation, and renewable energy. To view the series please visit this website www.energyhunter.com.au.
- **COP27 Egypt**
BZE collaborated with the Australian Government to showcase regionally based Australian Manufacturers of high purity aluminum, renewable energy storage, modular solar and more at the World's largest annual climate conference, COP27.
- **Hunter Innovation Festival**
Beyond Zero Emissions partnered with Hunter Innovation Festival showcasing renewable energy promoting local companies including Ampcontrol, 3ME Technology and Two of Eight, who were winners of The Global Charge on decarbonisation challenge.
- **Deploy**
A five-year plan to reduce emissions by 81% by 2030, improve and repower manufacturing regions, create jobs and build a prosperous future for all Australians.
- **3ME Technology to Support REIPS**
Business 3ME Technology designs and supplies battery systems to support Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts in the Hunter region of NSW.

- Launch of the Million Jobs Plan. Launched in 2021, The Million Jobs Plan, details over a million new and secure well-paying jobs to rebuild the Australian economy and secure a great future for all Australians.
- Snap Climate
Working In collaboration with Ironbark Sustainability, BZE to supply a tool that provides a snapshot of local emissions, so communities, decision makers, and local councils can continue to quickly reduce emissions and at the necessary scale.

Awards and Recognition:

- Prospect Think Tank Awards 2018
- Australian Philanthropy Awards 2020
- Premiers Sustainability Awards 2019
- Prospect Think tank Awards 2020
- Green Lifestyle Awards 2014
- Lauder Institute Think Tank Ranking
- Banksia Foundation Mercedes Benz Australian Environmental Research Award 2010

More information about Beyond Zero Emissions achievements and milestones is available on their website specifically at this link <https://www.bze.org.au/about-us/milestones>.

Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network - <https://on-climate.com/>

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, HOPE Researcher ACT



Main Aims

The Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network was founded in 2009 by a common concern for the sciences of and social responses to climate change. They seek to build an epistemic community. A community where linkages are made across disciplinary, geographic, and cultural frontiers.

Other objectives are to explore the scientific, strategic and policy perspectives on the impacts of and responses to climate change.

The Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network are defined by their scope and concerns and driven to form strategies for action underpinned by shared themes and tensions.

These scopes and concerns can be divided into four categories:

- The Nature of Evidence
Evidence is connected to ecological, social, and economic systems and comes with its own challenges, especially when trying to universalize evidence-based approaches. Evidence must be aligned with sustained perspectives on building resilient societies and economies.
- Ecosystem Impacts
The world is already living in the shadow of the effects of climate change which is having disastrous impacts on ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. Climate change has the potential to exacerbate these events. Solutions must be considered at micro and macro levels.

- **Human Impacts**
Climate change affects us all and humans are at the forefront of climate change. Climate change has created a crisis for food supply, declining agriculture productivity and limited the availability of water and is detrimental to the health of populations.

For our ongoing survival, we must consider these human impacts, assess the unique contexts, and develop an appropriate response. In determining a fit response, it is important to think about which communities bear the burden of climate change the most and measure responses globally.

- **Framing responses**
Responses need to encourage a proactive role and produce patterns of changes in land and energy use. The future of the planet is in our hands and as such, climate change is an essential intellectual and practical challenge for science, economics, politics, sociology, and ethics.

Major Achievements

- Development of the CGScholar Community which is a cutting-edge peer to peer, social knowledge technology and platform that connects academic peers from around the world. It provides a space for discourse, knowledge sharing, and presentation of knowledge works.
- The International Journal of Climate Change: Impact & Responses. This is a journal that explores scientific, policy and strategic perspectives on the impacts of and responses to climate change. The journal can be accessed here <https://on-climate.com/journal>.
- The Climate Change Book Imprint. A collaborative scholarly resource that seeks to influence public life and act as a powerful agent for critical engagement and productive democratic discourse. It seeks to educate, inform, and disseminate interdisciplinary inquiry. Moreover, it offers authors the opportunity to publish open access either their book or chapter.
- Promotion of CGPublisher which serves as a dedicated journal management tool for CGScholar. It can be accessed here <https://cgnetworks.org/medialab/cgpublisher>.

Current Campaigns/Projects

The Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network offers membership. Joining enables members to access an international network of scholars, researchers, and practitioners. Members will also have opportunities to present at their annual conference, publish in their journal and write for the book imprint and access a large body of knowledge. Membership can be obtained by purchasing a stand-alone membership or with any presenter pass conference registration. To become a member please follow this link to their website <https://on-climate.com/about/become-a-member>.

While there are no current campaigns or projects, it is important to note that previously Common Ground Research Networks, which Climate Change: Impacts & Responses Research Network are part of, offered a lab speaker series called Imaging futures. Imaging futures sought to provide Research Network members a place of learning and interaction through the provision of online conversation sessions. These sessions were directed by world leading researchers, practitioners, artists, and civic leaders.

These online interactions promoted the goal of forming linkages across disciplinary, geographical, and cultural boundaries with the objective of building strategies for action and nurture a commitment to change the world through action. For more information, please view the website at <https://on-climate.com/community/imagining-futures>.

Events

Sixteenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts & Responses is an annual conference that brings together participants from around the world with a common concern for the science of, and social responses to, climate change. This diversity of voices creates a rich and distinct conference experience. The conference is designed to make use of both online and place-based social knowledge processes.

The objective of the conference is to create an epistemic community where linkages can be built across geographical, cultural, and disciplinary boundaries. The conference facilitates knowledge sharing, and community building. The conference will feature plenary sessions from leading thinking and scholars in the field.

The conference invites proposals that seek to address the following themes or special focus:

- The nature of evidence.

- Assessing impacts on diverse ecosystems.
- Humans impacts and Responsibility.
- Technical, Political and Social responses.

To register for the conference please visit their website at <https://on-climate.com/2024-conference>

Other events include:

- Online Welcome Reception, this is a pre-conference reception complete with digital treats, a discussion of this year's theme and a walk through CGScholar event microsite to enrich your experience.
- Online Plenary Garden Experience, which is a live question and answer session with this year's plenary speakers.
- Online Talking Circles, providing the opportunity to meet other conference delegates online and engage in discussion about issues and concerns of importance as they pertain to the Research Network.

To sign up for online special events please visit the website at https://cgscholar.com/cg_event/events/C24en/registration_options/special_events

Links to HOPE's 2 podcast series

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.

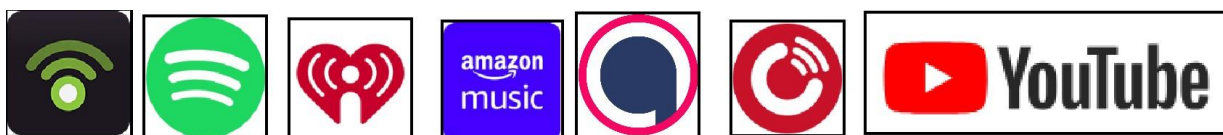
Funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General Office for Women and Violence Prevention

A 2023 QLD Women's Week project

BIODYNAMIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS IN AUSTRALIA
THE NEW PODCAST SERIES FROM BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE AUSTRALIA LTD. www.biodynamics.net.au

LIVING SOIL Listen on: [Logos for various platforms] LIVING FOOD

Biodynamic Farmers and Gardeners in Australia podcast series – now online!



National News

Green Harvest Organic Gardening Supplies calls it a day!

Written by Rob, Nebodi – HOPE researcher ACT

GREEN HARVEST

The following note is posted on the Green Harvest web site <https://greenharvest.com.au/>:

Green Harvest has permanently closed after 30 years promoting organic gardening Australia wide, the time has come to retire and spend time in our own edible gardens. We give thanks and much gratitude to our customers who have supported us for so many years. We have deeply appreciated our dedicated heirloom seed growers who have shared our passion for preserving our shared heirloom heritage. We have appreciated the long-term relationships we have built with farmers around Australia who supplied us with everything from garlic, saffron to ginger and strawberries. We couldn't have run our business without our supportive and caring team past and present.

Green Harvest Organic Gardening Supplies permanently closed at 5pm on the 1st of November 2023. However, all the useful growing and organic pest management research and resources are still available on their website for a while.

So, get in now while you still can!

	<h3>Organic Seeds</h3> <p>Herbs, flowers, vegetable, cover-crops, green manures, fruit trees, shrubs and vines.</p>		<h3>Edible Plants</h3> <p>Green Harvest specialises in a range of rare, perennial food plants for Australian gardeners. Now is a great time to plant: Mexican Coriander, Ginger and Yacon.</p>
	<h3>Pest Control</h3> <p>We bring to you the safest, least toxic, proven organic solutions to pest problems in the garden or home.</p>		<h3>Books</h3> <p>We use our expertise as organic gardeners and horticulturalists to pre-select for you the best books on any topic.</p>
	<h3>Tools, Propagation and Fertiliser</h3> <p>Buying quality tools makes good ecological and economic sense.</p>		<h3>Sprouts and Microgreens</h3> <p>Here you can find everything you need to grow sprouts and microgreens.</p>
	<h3>Poultry Supplies</h3> <p>Equipment, forage seeds, feed supplements and books that will make poultry keeping easier.</p>		<h3>Specials</h3> <p>We all like a bargain, this is where you can browse our specials, kits and reduced sale items.</p>

Green Harvest run a blog about organic gardening and sustainable living called *Earthwise Gardening* at <http://earthwisegardening.com/> which is still available for viewing, but may not be updated or working. There is a subscription form, but whether or not it is still working is unknown.

No further information about past aims, projects or campaigns, achievements, or anything else is available on the site.

National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS)



The impact of the built environment on climate change is significant, with an estimated 40% of the world's carbon emissions coming from buildings. For 25 years, NABERS (National Australian Built Environment Rating System) has been recognised as a trusted and reliable tool for measuring and promoting sustainability within the built environment. Since its inception, NABERS has played a pivotal role in driving environmental responsibility across different building sectors, demonstrating that what gets measured gets managed.

What is NABERS?

NABERS is a simple, robust, and comparable sustainability measurement system designed for various building sectors, including hotels, shopping centres, apartments, offices, data centres, and more. The overarching goal of NABERS is to create environmentally friendly buildings that not only benefit the planet but also provide happier and healthier spaces for occupants to thrive in.

The rating system operates on a one to six-star scale, similar to the efficiency star ratings found on appliances like fridges and washing machines. The rating assesses a building's efficiency in four key areas:

- Energy: Measures the energy consumption and efficiency of the building.
- Water: Evaluates the building's water usage and water-saving initiatives.
- Waste: Assesses waste management practices and waste reduction efforts.
- Indoor Environment: Considers factors affecting indoor air quality and occupant comfort.

The impact of NABERS

NABERS has proved to be highly effective in inspiring positive change and promoting sustainability across the built environment. It encourages building owners to prioritize energy and water efficiency, waste reduction, and indoor environmental quality, supporting the transition to a decarbonised future. Over the years, NABERS has helped customers achieve significant savings, with customers reducing their energy usage on average by 30-40% over 10-year period.

The impact of buildings on global sustainability cannot be underestimated. Buildings are major contributors to climate change, responsible for approximately 40% of the world's carbon emissions, 40% of the world's energy consumption, and 30% of the world's available drinking water usage. By rating buildings, NABERS actively addresses this environmental impact and empowers building owners to make informed decisions that reduce their carbon footprint.

Benefits of NABERS Ratings

The benefits of NABERS ratings extend far beyond environmental stewardship. Building owners who pursue NABERS ratings gain several advantages, including:

- Comparison: NABERS ratings serve as a benchmark for a building's energy and water efficiency, enabling comparisons within the industry. It provides building owners with valuable insights into their building's performance compared to similar structures.
- Validation and Communication: NABERS offers cost-effective, high-trust, and independent validation of sustainability data. This assurance enables building owners to confidently report their environmental performance and effectively communicate their commitment to sustainability.
- Continuous Improvement: With its annual rating model, NABERS establishes an essential framework for sustainability strategies and annual reporting. Building owners can track performance improvements, reduce energy consumption, and minimize emissions over time.

- **Competitive Edge:** NABERS ratings enhance a building's appeal to potential buyers, renters, procurement teams, or hotel guests. A lower environmental impact and reduced operational costs can provide a competitive advantage in a market increasingly prioritizing sustainability.

NABERS Key Principles

NABERS' success as Australia's leading building performance rating system is built on seven key principles:

- **Measuring Actual Impact, Not Intent:** NABERS focuses on quantifiable outcomes and actual environmental impact, avoiding ambiguity.
- **Relevance to Building Operations:** The rating system considers the real operational aspects of a building to ensure practical applicability.
- **Meaningful Ratings:** NABERS ratings are meaningful, accurate, and trustworthy due to robust assessment methodologies.
- **Simplicity and Ease of Performance:** NABERS strives for simplicity, making the rating process straightforward and accessible for building owners.
- **Reliability:** NABERS maintains a high level of credibility and trustworthiness in its assessments.
- **Trustworthy Management:** The NABERS framework operates transparently, promoting confidence among stakeholders.
- **Collaborative Development:** NABERS involves collaboration with industry experts, continuously improving and refining its methodologies.

What's next for NABERS?

NABERS has evolved substantially over its 25-year history. Since rating only office buildings initially, it now covers buildings across a wide range of sectors including shopping centres, hotels, data centres, apartments, public hospitals, retirement villages and warehouses, with work underway to expand to additional sectors in the coming months.

To support the transition towards net zero, and better recognise buildings utilising renewable energy, NABERS has developed its Renewable Energy Indicator. This is displayed on NABERS Energy ratings and shows the proportion of the building's energy that comes from on-site renewable energy generated and off-site renewable energy procured. Since launching in June 2023, it has been rewarding to see this well received by customers, as it encourages transparency in the journey towards net zero.

NABERS is also working to address the challenge of embodied carbon in buildings and how this can be consistently and accurately measured. As energy efficiency and electrification drive down operational emissions, the proportion of emissions from the manufacture and transport of materials for building construction will swell. Our colleagues at the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) have estimated that, by 2050, embodied emissions could account for up to 85% of emissions in the built environment, up from just 16% in 2019.

With no consistency in how embodied emissions are measured today, NABERS, in partnership with the GBCA, is developing a national standard to measure, compare and certify the embodied carbon footprint of buildings. We are engaging with hundreds of professionals across the building ecosystem – from designers to developers, lifecycle analysts to architects, product manufacturers to policymakers.

We are currently working on the technical foundations of the standard, including a thorough public consultation process.

The Australian building sector has most of the ingredients needed for a sustainable revolution this decade, and everyone in the NABERS community has a role to play. We've built knowledge, networks and technology solutions. We've trained assessors and engaged suppliers.

We've built business cases and policy frameworks. Most importantly, we've built momentum. We look forward to the future with excitement and optimism.

To find out more about NABERS, visit nabers.gov.au, [join our mailing list](#) or find us on [LinkedIn](#).
