

About Us

The Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) movement was inspired by a speech given by Janet MacKenzie, editor and avid environmentalist, at a World Environment Day event in Melbourne. In 1988, Janet spoke about how "ordinary people can make a difference by raising awareness and initiating actions to solve local environmental problems". The speech resonated with Australians who wanted to be proactive in protecting their environment. MacKenzie created the HOPE charter - the "HOPE Generator" - providing information, contacts, and resources for people to lessen their impact on the environment. In it MacKenzie wrote "... everyone can do something, no matter how small. Maybe tomorrow they'll do more." Soon, over 80 HOPE 'hubs' opened across Victoria with many more in other states supporting the slogan 'Think Globally – Act Locally'.



*Figure 1 Janet MacKenzie
(deceased 2018)*



*Figure 2 Frank Ondrus, President -
HOPE Inc. (Australia)*

When Frank Ondrus moved from Victoria to Toowoomba, Queensland in 1993, he was inspired establish a HOPE branch there. For the first eight years HOPE Toowoomba wrote a weekly column in the Downs Star newspaper with helpful hints for households to reduce their environmental impact, which Frank believes "paved the way for HOPE's acceptance in the community" and attracted regular volunteers. Later, a bi-monthly newsletter was started, reaching more households across Queensland – and, helped form many partnerships promoting HOPE's mission. Today, HOPE releases a monthly e-newsletter that is shared digitally with its members and partners across Australia.

Over time HOPE Victoria became fragmented and sought a more cohesive approach. HOPE Toowoomba now had a website and a regular newsletter and was asked to run HOPE nationwide in 2000. However, it wasn't until 2007 that Frank took over running HOPE nationally, becoming President of HOPE Inc. (Australia).

Built on the foundations outlined by Janet Mackenzie, HOPE's three principal aims are:

1. Raising awareness by providing people with information – letting people know about current environmental issues;
2. Education – suggestions on how to tackle these issues; and
3. Showing – how easily it can be done.

HOPE has achieved these aims over the years through publishing several information booklets, made possible through funding received from grants. The booklets which were made available to the public at the time of their production include:

- The Ecology Audit booklet, a questionnaire for primary school students about sustainable living was published in 1999 with a second edition released in 2005.
- Three editions of the "Householder's guide to sustainable living: Helpful hints to reduce your carbon footprint" between 2007 and 2014. The guide provides tips on ways to be 'water wise', how to create non-toxic cleaning products, ethical eating, more eco-friendly means of transport, recycling, energy, building and renovation and gardening.

- The “Low Carbon Living” booklet of 2014 looks at reducing household impact in the home focusing on power, food, transport, water and waste.
- In 2022 “How to live sustainably and chemical-free” booklet was developed looking at the chemicals used in our household, food and gardening as well as ways to reduce waste in our home.
- In 2023 HOPE celebrated the contribution that Women of the Darling Downs Women had made and are making in protecting the environment, by publishing a booklet of profiles and a series of podcasts. This project was funded by the Queensland Government’s Office for Women.
- Promoting the stories of biodynamic farmers by developing a booklet of profiles and series of podcast interviews for Biodynamic Agriculture Australia, also in 2023.

Other projects include:

- Promoting energy efficiency practices in households to start the Darling Downs Solar Neighbourhood project funded by the Queensland state government in 2009.
- Building 150 Nest Boxes to provide shelter to nesting birds and animals in the Darling Downs region with funded granted by the Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund in 2023.

HOPE has staged and helped facilitate numerous local events in Toowoomba such as:

- community forums at the Toowoomba City Library discussing organic gardening, maintaining regional heritage, solar, beekeeping, soil restoration, pest and weed management
- forums on environmental issues co-facilitated with the USQ Toowoomba Campus
- community events and programs in collaboration with numerous organisations including the Toowoomba Regional Environmental Council (TREC) with HOPE holding membership on the World Environment Day committee
- setting up Toowoomba’s initial Youth Leading the World Congress with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee in 2014.

In South-East Queensland, HOPE has provided information displays at events such as National Youth Week, Logan Eco Action Festival, Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival and Toowoomba Seniors Expo (to name a few).

HOPE is linked to almost 30 environmental agencies through Non-Government Organisation (NGO) partnerships and alliances with numerous links to government agencies. To read more about our current memberships and alliances please follow the [link](#) provided.

HOPE has been an active participant in many forums - including organising the 2002 Organics Expo, 2003 Biodiversity Expo, 2006 Earth Charter Forum, 2006 Keep Qld GM Free and 2007 Walk Against Warming event. Most recently, HOPE members were represented at the 2020 National Climate Emergency Summit in Melbourne.

Three decades since conception and HOPE still operates as a community-based, not-for-profit organisation offering practical solutions for households to live more sustainably. Today HOPE continues to inform and educate everyday people on current environmental issues and provide resources, workshops, meetings and practical suggestions about sustainable living, with a passionate community of volunteers.

Mr Ondrus believes that households are still interested in “doing the right thing” and believes the “awareness of issues and the adoption of sustainable solutions is the key to sustained change”. Frank encourages households to keep striving to live more sustainably, “there’s

plenty of good useful information and advice available to make good choices". Some can be found available on HOPE's web page [link](#).

Ecology Audit

How environmentally friendly are you?

A questionnaire booklet for primary school students



An initiative of

HOUSEHOLDERS' OPTIONS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT (HOPE)

HOUSEHOLDERS GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE LIVING

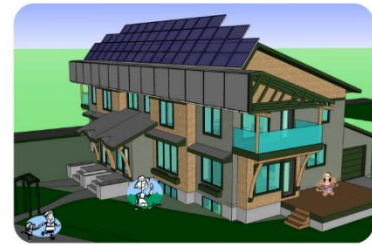
HELPFUL TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S CARBON FOOTPRINT

Prepared by: Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.



LOW CARBON LIVING

...starts at home



How to live sustainably and chemical-free

Developed by Nina Stick



Figure 1. Organic chemical free gardening. Source: The Essentials Store.

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www.hopeaustralia.org.au

