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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2024 #01 --- January 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 January edition of the newsletter and the New Year! In this edition we learn about the importance of restoring farmlands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, discover some local Queensland initiatives; diverting waste from landfill and helping migrant job seekers find work. What role can the education system have in addressing environmental issues? We learn how the Threatened Species Recovery Hub has educated people on various Australasian species under threat and controlling or managing populations of native and introduced species of animals. PestSmart aims to educate the broader public on pest animal species and their control. We revisit climate change issues, and the Powering Post Coal Alliance (PPCA) which promotes the acceleration of clean energy usage.

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

2024 Environmental Observances … early date claimers

- National Bird Day – January 2024
- International Dairy Week – 13 to 18 January 2024
- World Wetlands Day – 2 February 2024
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science – 11 February 2024

Letters to the Editor

Hi there,

Re: Gabriel Malandu's article -There exists a global environmental crisis, and levels of consumption and consumerism (overdevelopment and the culture of capitalising) are major, if not the only, causes.

I have long ago realized the climate crisis is mostly man made with pollution from coal and gas along with all the chemicals used especially – those made during the war and then sold to farmers.
Chemicals were produced to kill, and so they do their job.

The big elephant in the room is population. It is most stressing to see all the babies and children living in very poor conditions.
There should be a huge push to educate people on birth control, especially women.
Even here in Australia often, those who have trouble finding accommodation, have lots of children.
Paying people to have children is ridiculous.
The aboriginals had a very successful birth control system. Most native animals breed only in good times. We changed that with the building of dams and planting crops.

As we watch the horror of the war in the Middle East, we see that the place is over populated and the fights are over land. I realize that the Middle East is more complicated than what we see from afar.
Many, many years ago I was fortunate to be able to spend time in Lebanon and it was at that time, I learnt the problems of over population and how cheap life is.
Because of my experience there, I have one child (whom I love dearly) but when people ask why I only had one, my answer is "sometimes I am surprised I had any."

Anonymous, Qld

Hi there,

Thanks again for passing on the assignment by Gabriel Malandu.

While I cannot comment on the assignment from an academic perspective, from my personal perspective I found the key messages are compelling and resonating strongly. They are also very timely - if the time has not already passed. The images of the Doomsday clock - and the lesser-known Climate Clock - come to mind.

The field of global economic theory - particularly with a focus on the environment - is fascinating. Perhaps that is an area that Gabriel may like to continue focusing on?

Please pass on my congratulations and best wishes to Gabriel.

Bernie Ingle, Convenor - Toowoomba Renew

Hi there,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback and comment on this feature article by Gabriel Malandu.

This article is well written and researched providing insight and highlighting the linkages between climate change, over consumption, consumerism, capitalism, greed and need. It illustrates how through human greed that has become indistinguishable from need, has exasperated the climate crisis further.

I was quite intrigued by the relationship between consumerism and consumption and the deeper role that it plays in the environmental crisis.

The majority of my comments are in the following dot points:

- *This is a great example of an analysis that shows the in depth, related, interlinked interdependent relationship that exists between humanity, thirst for material goods that we want and in order to justify, claim to need, overall consumerism and capitalism and the climate crisis.*
- *This is an important realisation and an essential argument to make. It demonstrates that humanity has played a part in this existential crisis. Our part stems from capitalist roots underpinned by consumerism and greed that we have classified as a need. This has led to over consumption; and overuse of our natural resources.*
- *Truth is the majority of humanity are greedy, consumerism breeds this as well as selfishness which leads to actions that produce consequences for the environment. This greed is not only a problem for developed nations, but developing ones as well and the rich and the poor. The tentacles of capitalism and the desire to consume to excess are far reaching.*
- *I highly commend Gabriel's use of models such as Wallerston's World System Theory Model. The use of this model further cements the arguments presented about over development, consumerism and capitalism being driving forces that continue to create or make the climate crisis worse.*
- *I concur with the analysis, and particularly the arguments about the human contribution to climate change. I have considered how over consumption, overuse and abuse of materials has led to issues with water management on a large scale, disrupted essential ecosystems and worsened the impact of climate change.*

Truth is climate change's worsening elements are underpinned, supported and driven by everyday excessive human greed, over consumption and misplaced values. We use more than we need and give in to excessive waste. These factors are what has led to this existential crisis and Gabriel's article provides a great analysis of this and presents it in an understandable way, that is thought provoking and change inducing.

Possible Solutions.

I support Gabriel's article and I agree with its arguments. To rectify the issue is to continue to promote articles that cause us to reuse, such as recycling to combat over consumption and consumerism. People can still buy, but the same products will be circulating without the need to purchase additional products. We can make use of what we already have and upcycle as well. Using existing products to make new products. While these ideas are already in existence, it is important to promote them. In other words, nothing should be wasted, but we should reuse wherever possible. Making new from the old and vice versa. Central to this, will be working on changing consumer habits and mindsets to link it with an existential crisis. If through promotion, awareness and change of mindsets can be changed, then consumerism and over consumption will gradually become less.
Great work Gabriel.

Regards,

Cassandra, ACT

Office News

Summary of carry-forward and proposed projects, etc. for 2024

Carried forward grant applications

- Qld GCBF: Nest boxes – for birds and other animals such possums
  --- 90 nest boxes paid for; 85 distributed
- Australian Communities Foundation (ACF): Laptop (reactivated Sept 2023)
  --- awaiting approval
- Federal Volunteer Grant program: 2 laptops
  --- awaiting approval of Expression of Interest application
- Queensland Community Foundation (QCF): Website upgrade
  --- awaiting approval

Projects – current and proposed

- Current projects, etc.
  - Special Report on Food Security (Fiona Berry – Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney)
    --- will ask Fiona for a progress report
  - Special Report on Circular Economy (now being handled by Jigna Ghosh)
    --- will ask Jigna for a progress report
  - We have been commissioned by Biodynamic Agriculture Australia Ltd to develop promotional material consisting of a "booklet of profiles" and a series of podcasts
    --- Anna has completed the 'booklet of profiles' and we are awaiting formal acceptance by commissioning agency
    --- Andrew has completed 5 podcasts
  - Website hosting transfer; and conversion of content to WordPress (being undertaken by Communications & Computers Support (CCS), Toowoomba)
    --- The manual transfer and conversion of our website data to WordPress is almost complete. Frank has offered to personally pay for this undertaking.

- Proposed webinars, etc. (several of which may be held in conjunction with the 2024 Sustainable Living Festival)
  - Promotion of Transition Towns concept and current activities here in Australia – partnership between HOPE and Transition (Towns) Australia
  - Promotion of Saul Griffith's "The Big Switch" and Electrify 2515 project - partnership between HOPE, Renew Toowoomba, UniSQ and Saul Griffith/Electrify 2515
  - Presentation by Dr Geoffrey Woolcock, UniSQ, on the work of Australian National Development Index - ANDI
  - Presentation by Roland Sapsford re the work of Climate and Health Alliance (caha.org.au)
  - Presentation by Morag Gamble re the work of Permaculture Education Institute - courses, masterclasses & more
  - Presentation by Home - Sustainable Population Australia
    - ***Awaiting 'application' forms from Sustainable Living Festival before we can lock in guest speakers and topics; as well as relevant dates and times***

- Sundry project proposals
  - Provision of free drone fly-overs: Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP)Toowoomba – Redwood Park re Cats Claw Creeper infestation; and Coalbank Road Reserve (Coalbank)
    --- No response from FEP Toowoomba
  - Renew Toowoomba has invited us to assist them in their Community Partners (rewiringaustralia.org) project.
    --- awaiting more information from Renew Toowoomba
  - Partnership with Ros Darracott, Associate Professor (Social Work and Human Services), UniSQ re: Eco-Social initiatives (see list elsewhere)
    --- awaiting further contact from Ros Darracott

Feature Article

Farmlands

By Julie Mammitzsch – HOPE researcher NSW

Reducing greenhouse emissions is one of the key goals for keeping global warming below 2 degrees. A reduction of 50% has to be achieved by 2030. Ecosystem restoration, including the restoration of farmlands, play an important role in avoiding the most severe impacts of climate change. It might provide one-third of the answer to meeting all the set Sustainable Development Goals within the next 7 years. According to scientists, even just reestablishing 15% of priority ecosystems can help reduce the extinction rate of endangered species by 60%.

Before and after images of ecosystem restoration in Tanzania. Within just three years, the affected soil's water level has been restored, leading to a drastic regrowth of trees and grass.

What actually is ecosystem restoration?
Ecosystem restoration implies maintaining the still intact ecosystems and helping to restore ecosystems that have been damaged or lost. Thriving ecosystems mean greater biodiversity, including richer soils, higher fish and timber outputs, and larger carbon dioxide storage capacity. Ecosystems may include farmlands, wetlands, mountain peaks, oceans and coastlines.

Why is ecosystem restoration so urgent?
Ecosystems are the base for our life on earth- providing us with clean air, access to food, water, and different kinds of natural resources. Well-balanced ecosystems can protect us from natural disasters and offer a magical space to look after our physical and mental health.

Farmlands
Covering more than one-third of our planet, farmlands are by far the most crucial ecosystem to sustain. Despite providing us with food, biomass, fibre and fertile grasslands- they are also home to a huge variety of different organisms. Species from bats to birds, insects and worms all play an important part in these systems. However, the way we use many of our lands has destroyed their vitality. The usage of aggressive fertilizers, monocultures, and overgrazing is not a sustainable way to look after our farmlands. It leads to lower soil quality and polluted waterways. Sustainable practices need to be put into place to ensure better management of our land.

Key steps to restore farmlands:

1. **Invest in Nature**- A change toward organic fertilizers and natural pest control to restore the health of the soil.
2. **More diversity**- Shifting toward growing more trees, a wider variety of crops and the incorporation of livestock. Little steps like an introduction of flowers on the edges of farmland can help to attract more bees, for example.
3. **Graze sustainably**- Introduce grazing regimes to help limit soil erosion, overuse, and grassland invasion.
4. **Reintegrate indigenous species** – Introduce extinguished plants, trees, and animal species and ensure that they are protected until they are fully grown.

#GenerationRestoration

How to get involved
We all need to work together if we want to reach the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030! As one team we can 'end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.'
One first and very easy step is to follow the social media movement and join *#GenerationRestoration*. Tag all your related projects and posts and help to heal our planet.

Include your community, family, and friends. Ask people in your circle what they enjoy about nature spaces in your immediate environment and what could be done to protect or restore specific areas. Inspire them to learn more about local ecosystems and let them join *#GenerationRestoration*.
Inform yourself about local parties and political leaders who make ecosystem restoration a priority. Make sure to give them your vote!
Get involved and follow the link of UN Decade Restorations' Website to get an overview of current projects and get involved in local initiatives. UN Decade on Restoration

Resources:
www.unep.org/interactive/ecosystem-restoration-people-nature-climate/en/index.php, accessed 25/08/2023.
wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35858/ERP.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y, accessed 25/08/2023.
www.decadeonrestoration.org/what-ecosystem-restoration, accessed 25/08/2023.

Queensland News

Reverse Garbage Queensland Co-op Ltd (RGQ) - https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/
Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi, HOPE Researcher ACT

Main Aims
Founded in 1998, Reverse Garbage Queensland (RGQ) Is a not-for-profit worker run co-operative that promotes environmental sustainability and reuse. They collect high quality industrial discards, diverting them from land fill and selling them at low cost to the public.

Reverse Garbage Queensland practices social sustainability through a worker-managed co-operative model that encourages workplace equity. Decisions are made together using a consensus decision-making model.

To achieve these aims, Reverse Garbage Queensland:

- Provide meaningful and ecologically sustainable employment.
- Is sustainable in every sense of the word: Environmentally, Socially and Financially, achieved by minimising their ecological footprint and educating others about reducing theirs.
- Runs environmental education workshops in schools, festivals, and community groups and at our urban environmental education facility located in our warehouse.
- Mails exciting materials anywhere in Australia as an inexpensive and environmentally responsible substitute to mainstream art supplies.
- Operates a Gift Shop and Gallery that stocks high quality art, jewellery, and home wares. The Giftshop can be accessed on Reverse Garbage Queensland website at https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/emporium
- Run Talks and Tours in their warehouse; talks can be tailored to suit any group or project.

Major Achievements – RGQ:

- Championing grassroots reuse, repair and refashion.
- Facilitating reuse by collecting industrial discards from over 300 businesses around Brisbane and diverting them away from landfill and providing them at low cost to the community.
- Running environmental education workshops and tours for schools, festivals, and community groups to further the sustainability agenda and promote awareness.
- Creation of the Reverse Emporium to stock high quality art, jewellery, homewares and more to support local artists and promote upcycled items made from salvaged materials.
- Offered a mail service to send materials Australia-wide efficiently and as an environmentally responsible alternative to regular art supplies.

Current projects/Campaigns

Community Art Projects

- Paint a Barrel for RGQ allows members of the community to apply to paint barrels and replenish the shop floor with local creative colour and flair.

Sustainability Education

- RGQ conducts workshops as part of sustainability education. These are eco-art workshops that explores the properties of salvaged materials that have been collected and curated for creative reuse. This program is catered to children and aligned to the Australian Curriculum and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority standards for Science, technologies, the Arts, English and HASS.

Talk and Tours

- RGQ offers a 30 Minute guided Talk and Tour of their warehouse at Woolloongabba. During this tour, participants are introduced to how and why the organisation operates within a circular economy (structure, ethos, consensus decision-making and co-operatives), how reuse differs from recycling, how

and where materials are collected and sorted. Examples of discarded materials, diverted from landfill and put to creative reuse, will also be shown.

- A talk and tour costs $40 for 30 minutes per group during weekdays and $75 for 30 minutes per group on Saturdays and require a minimum of 5 people for tours to go ahead. Bookings are essential please visit https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/warehouse for more information and to make a booking.

For information on the work of Reverse Garbage Queensland please visit their website at https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/

To sign up to receive the RCQ Newsletter and information regarding news and events, please see this link https://app.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/s2q5l8

Likewise please visit https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/blog to read the RGQ blog or view their television programs at https://reversegarbagequeensland.com.au/rgq-tv

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The Mulberry Project

By Rob Nebodi – HOPE researcher ACT

The Mulberry Project was founded in 2016 as a market-gardening initiative for migrants that aims to build up the skills that will help disadvantaged job seekers find work. It will enable them to be better able to find employment in horticulture and agriculture in Australia's rural areas. The focus is finding employment for people in disadvantaged communities.

The project is working with the horticulture industry organisation Growcom, Queensland's state industry body representing fruit, vegetable and nut growers. The aim is to establish and provide employment opportunities in the field of agriculture - particularly for migrants, refugees and other disadvantaged people.

The project is also aimed at utilising farmland that is currently under-used, to form suitable market gardens and so provide training, employment and life-bettering conditions for migrants.

The goal is to empower participants to lead connected, productive, and fulfilling lives by:

- creating community through social gardening
- recognising barriers to participation
- acknowledging existing skills
- providing tailored solutions to developing work readiness
- supporting industry workforce needs

Work-ready migrants, refugees or international students aged 18 years and older, who are looking for work within the Agricultural and Agri Business Industry, may be eligible to participate in The Mulberry Project.

The Diverse Queensland Workforce program is designed to assist skilled migrants, international students, and refugees into employment. This Queensland Government Initiative is funded under the Future Skills Fund.

D:\0_Downloads\The Mulb Proj (1).jpg -You can watch aspects of The Mulberry Project on YouTube and Gardening Australia.

Contact information:
Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn
Email: admin@themulberryproject.org.au

Positions Vacant

Due to the recent departures of key admin support staff, we are in need of extra personnel to fill the following vacancies:

- Researchers – required to review and comment on a range of discussion papers, policy documents and reports provided by government departments, business and industry organisations and NGOs.
- Media Officers – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
- Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of PowerPoint presentations and information sheets.

So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

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.

National News

Should the education system be providing environmental education for a sustainable future?

Written by Nisha Wajid, HOPE Researcher (NSW)

It is no surprise that there has been a dramatic global shift towards winning the fight against climate change. It is now well encouraged to promote more critical thinking on the issue and to communicate it more articulately through various platforms and from multiple positions, as well as point of views. But exactly what is the pivoting point? When does this become an issue to the individual and to what extent?

Alongside being taught the regulars in school – mathematics and English-it is very important to thoroughly highlight environmental issues, as the students today will be the leaders of tomorrow who need to be educated and essentially, well equipped to understand that an unsustainable future is not just a threat to ourselves, but also our planet which in turn will not be able to sustain our lifestyle in the near future. Environmental education will allow us to interpret complex environmental issues as well as take multiple initiatives after understanding the severity of the matter, which is not just targeted to a particular region but is a 'global' problem.

It definitely is not challenging to include this criteria into the education system as by pushing the matter will prove to show that it can result in the most effective tool in combating environmental damage and also promote sustainable development. According to the Australian Association for Environmental Education, the 'Alliance' mission has allowed for a more positive outcome and higher outreach to provide better understanding on the matter and to readily have resources available to educate the youth of today.

According to the Australian Association for Environmental Education (AAEE), there have been multiple programs and seminars targeted towards environmental educators, to allow Australians to have the opportunity and be part of the 'mission' towards a more sustainable future. Moreover, there have a number of recommended methods in order to propel the notion forward, including[1]:

- Improving the accessibility of high-quality classroom ready resources
- Supporting the alignment of EfS learning tools and programs within the Australia curriculum. The EfS manual contents include practical tools, protocols and exemplars that can be utilised to embed education for sustainability. And finally:
- Provide better training and support services for teachers as well as educators programs to enable efficient delivery of sustainability learning outcome across the Australia curriculum.

All factors connect environmental educators to take advantage of relevant resources and interactive lessons to encourage the like-minded community of the vastness and immensity of the situation. A framework is provided to target key learning areas which creates initiative within the youth. Whilst utilising the appropriate technology, students can be influenced and can develop a positive outlook to fulfilling their duty towards a sustainable future.

More information can be found at:
https://www.aaee.org.au/projects/australian-education-for-sustainabilityalliance/

A broader example can include explaining the use of solar energy. A lot of schools use solar energy and a comparison of energy consumption can be made between similar schools. This can show initiative as well as show a drive for potential change on a much larger scale. Another way can be to assign environmental oriented projects, e.g. waste management auditing. According to 'The Conversation' [2], students and teachers collected waste and sorted it into various categories, comparing it the previous years of waste. It was concluded that more was being recycled and progressively, less was being disposed into landfills.

Moreover, the notion to embed sustainability into the classroom, as well as the community, is a vision of the AAEE. The aim is to implement, practice, educate and advocate the youth of sustainable environmental practice and to immerse it into daily life.

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[1] Australian education for sustainability alliance (AAEE) – 'Mission' - https://www.aaee.org.au/projects/australian-education-for-sustainability-alliance/

A very interesting project hosted by the AAEE, and termed as project-based learning, is designed to prioritise environmental sustainability within the curriculum and allow educators to evaluate the current teaching practices - leaning towards better improvement and educating the youth at an earlier stage. Statistically speaking, according to the 'Education for Sustainability and Australian Curriculum Project' [3] , 40% of Australian teachers stated:

- Lack of comprehension and understanding of the concept
- Lack of comprehension and understanding of the relevance of teaching sustainability as part of the curriculum.

Hence, it is key that the educators also revise and amend what is being taught from their end. A clear definition as well as guidance on the matter will enhance teaching practice and appropriate tools and resources can be used.

[Figure 2: Sustainable Schools NSW Flyer. The document showcases different themes and opportunities for sustainability education. Source: https://www.sustainableschoolsnsw.org.au]

Figure 2 is able to visually and concisely present the steps of implementation into the curriculum. No change occurs in one go and therefore a number of approaches is quite useful to see which resource and/or method will prove to be the most effect. For example, explaining climate change. According to NPR showing a movie, novel reading or even research projects will allow to educate the children and they will further question the issue out of pure curiosity. In the bigger picture it is still a change. As the saying goes: 'One person can make a difference and everyone should try' – John F Kennedy (35th president of the United States).

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[2] 'Involving kids in making schools sustainable spreads the message beyond the classroom' – B. Gibbons, B. Dean, S. Perkiss – (1/11/19) - https://theconversation.com/involving-kids-inmaking-schools-sustainable-spreads-the-message-beyond-the-classroom-119470

[3] 'Education for sustainability and Australian Curriculum Project' – Finding and recommendations – Findings '1' - https://www.aaee.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/AAEE-Education-for-Sustainability-and-the-Australian-Curriculum-Project-Final-Report-2015.pdf

To conclude, in my opinion, our current education system can do more and improve in providing environmental education for a sustainable future. Slow effective changes can make long term dramatic impacts and that I believe, will lead to a sustainable future.

References

- 'The importance of environmental education for a sustainable future' - Earth.org - https://earth.org/environmental-education/ - Statistical data – May 28th 2023.
- 'Why should I teach sustainability' – Getting started with sustainability in schools - http://sustainabilityinschools.edu.au/why-teachsustainability
- Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance – 'AESA' - https://www.aaee.org.au/projects/australian-educationfor-sustainability-alliance/ 'Outcomes'

Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre - https://fightfoodwastecrc.com.au/

Written by Maggie Ng, HOPE volunteer Vic

The Fight Food Waste Cooperative Research Centre (Fight Food Waste CRC) aims to generate positive change in the food industry in Australia, pairing up with research partners and industry participants to solve problems identified by the industry through collaborative partnership. The organisation also facilitates small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in collaborative research through their SME Solutions Centre.

Some of the organisation's industry partners include the Abalone Association of Australasia, the Australian Foodservice Advocacy Body, the Australian Food & Grocery Council, and the Australian Institute of Food Science & Technology, just to name a few. Research partners include Swinburne University of Technology, RMIT, Curtin University, QUT and the University of Queensland. The organisation is also partners with Foodbank and OzHarvest, two of Australia's main food relief organisations

The aims of these research and development programs are to deliver new sources of revenue and market growth for food companies, ensure that less resources are wasted through the grower-to-consumer supply chain, and ensure more food is provided for Australians in need.

The programs are split into three categories: Reduce, Transform and Engage. In each of these categories are several projects that tackle problems identified by industry, through outcome-focused collaborative partnerships. The main goal for the Reduce program is to cut down on supply chain losses; for the Transform program it's to transform waste resources; and for the Engage program, it's to educate both future industry professionals - equipping them with industry and skills training; and the general public, and to change household and business behaviours when it comes to waste.

One of these projects include enhancing food charity Foodbank's stakeholder engagement. Fight Food Waste works along with volunteers who donate the food, and charities who distribute it; and aims to increase the amount of food being distributed to hungry Australians. Currently, only 60% of the demand from those in need is met by food rescue organisations and Fight Food Waste aims to improve that by making more food available for those in need. The organisation is also investigating how to increase the rate of food donation and measure its social impact.

Another important project which is under way, is investigating new kinds of food insulation made from food waste materials. Fight Food Waste hopes to introduce a new packaging - Planet Protector brand 'Woolpack' - that keeps temperature-sensitive products within a 0-5°C temperature range for 2-5% longer than the current market standard of expanded polystyrene. That also helps with reducing food waste. This new packaging is also cost-effective to manage through composting, and renewable, being more biodegradable than current insulation materials.

The organisation is also looking for ways to utilise potato waste, converting potatoes that are rejected by the food market into bioplastics, adhesives, and other useful materials, as well as prebiotics that can help prevent

infections and the development of colon cancer. This particular project has some bigger long-term goals to create new jobs and generate an increased income and profitability for potato producers in Australia.

Other large-scale projects that Fight Food Waste is involved in include researching into using food waste to feed pigs, creating a cost-effective alternative to current pig feeds, and fuelling sustainable wastewater treatment with food waste.

Fight Food Waste have also produced a number of publications covering their various projects, with topics ranging from the processing of wild prawns, to enhancing Foodbank's shareholder engagement.

For those looking to educate themselves further on fighting food waste, the Fight Food Waste CRC offers 30 PhD top-up scholarships and 12 Masters by Research scholarships available at participating universities until 2028. These programs offer access to industry knowledge, access to a professional personal development program, student retreats, and more.

Threatened Species Recovery Hub

https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/

Written by Maggie Ng, HOPE volunteer Vic

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub was an environmental science program created to educate people on various Australasian species under threat. The hub finished in 2021 but its legacy remains through what it has accomplished for Australasian wildlife.

The program was supported with funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program and funding from 10 of Australia's leading universities and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

With a network of over 150 of Australia's leading environmental scientists, the hub has made several achievements including implementation of 147 projects. These involved working closely with roughly 250 partners to make a difference for many species of endangered flora and fauna.

The hub has also communicated with Indigenous leaders through the Indigenous Engagement and Participation Strategy, creating a two-way collaborative relationship between the hub and Indigenous land managers.

Controlling or managing populations of native and introduced species of animals was also part of the hub's mission. The management of feral cats was a particular project which involved identifying and communicating with various interest groups, informing them about the impacts of the feral cat population on native species.

These groups included:

- Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner and the Australian Government's Department of the Environment and Energy
- State/territory conservation agencies
- On ground NGOs (e.g., Birdlife, Bush Heritage Australia, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Arid Recovery)
- Advocacy NGOs
- Local government
- Sporting Shooters Association of Australia and their state branches
- Island-based communities (Indigenous and non-Indigenous)
- Natural Resource Management groups
- Indigenous groups and collaborations and the hub's Indigenous Reference Group
- Pet cat owners
- Veterinary associations
- Pet food and pet care industries
- Peak bodies for pet cat management like the RSPCA and Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC)
- Landcare groups and farmers
- Birdwatching groups
- General media
- Schools

These groups were important to the feral cat population project as cats are a relevant part of their activities, and wider dissemination of information contributes to public knowledge about the impact cats have on the environment here in Australia.

In addition to the feral cat project, the Threatened Species Discovery Hub have synthesised knowledge on how to fight extinctions and planned recovery for Threatened Ecological Communities of species. One species that has been monitored is the Far Eastern Curlew, whose population had declined rapidly – in fact, it showed a staggering yearly decline of 5.8%. Other species being monitored include the Mallee fowl and Northern quoll.

Some projects involved biodiversity offsetting which involves estimation of the benefit of habitat protection, identifying approaches for species and communities for which offsets present unique challenges, and exploring diverse approaches that can deliver benefits through individualised strategic planning.

All in all, the hub had made a significant impact on Australasian wildlife and pest research.
For more information on the research and findings of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub, as well as resources for your organisation, visit https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/.

PestSmart - https://pestsmart.org.au/

PestSmart are an organisation that aims to educate the broader public on pest animal species and their control. It also provides information on government strategies designed for pest management.

The aim of PestSmart is to reduce damage caused by pests to a level that is environmentally and economically acceptable. This is done using seven clearly defined principles, which are:

1. A pest is a human-defined idea.
2. Key stakeholders need to be actively engaged and consulted.
3. Pests are rarely eradicated.
4. Most pest management needs to focus on the outcome, not just killing pests.
5. A whole of system approach is required for managing pest damage.
6. Most pest management occurs in ecosystems of which our knowledge is incomplete.
7. An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy is essential for all management action.

PestSmart has developed management toolkits to enhance stakeholder knowledge when creating pest animal programs. These include videos, case studies and standard operating procedures for control tools, as well as information about different species of pest animals.

Domestic animal safety is another facet of welfare that PestSmart is concerned with. Their website discusses the safety and welfare of domestic dogs used in managing pest animals, and how to minimise rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) infection in rabbits.

The website contains a lot of valuable information about the common pest animal species, from cats and dogs through to deer and water buffalo, each of which have their own factsheet and profile of their impact on both human society and the environment. The organisation has also provided a library of resources on strategies and National Standard Operating Procedures used to maintain and manage feral animal populations.

PestSmart have also provided several case studies of projects they have been involved in, including the Biteback Program in South Australia, which is a successfully implemented program for managing wild dog populations in Northern Flinders, South Australia. It is expected that landowners will see a clear reduction in wild dog numbers and loss of livestock.

Another program that is being implemented is the Bounceback program, which aims to control the population of foxes and rabbits in the Flinders Ranges. Furthermore, it aims to enhance and restore biodiversity and natural ecological processes across the Flinders Ranges region, as well as remove the major threats to those processes. In addition, it aims to develop and demonstrate a best practice model of ecological management.

Brindabella and Wee Jasper is a program that aims to manage both fox and wild dog populations over an area of roughly 150,000 hectares in the Australian Alps. The program was a success, as evidenced by the attacks on stock decreasing by an annual average of 75%.

Projects about management of cats and feral goats on Kangaroo Island, South Australia are also underway. One other project involves seeing if native predatory fish could be used to control invasive carp populations. It was found that many Australian native fish did not have a preference for introduced carp over other species of prey but their occasional predation is an incidental positive outcome of increasing native predatory fish populations.

In summary, PestSmart have put in place several methods of pest control and monitoring that have benefited Australian wildlife.

For PetSmart resources go to https://pestsmart.org.au/resources/

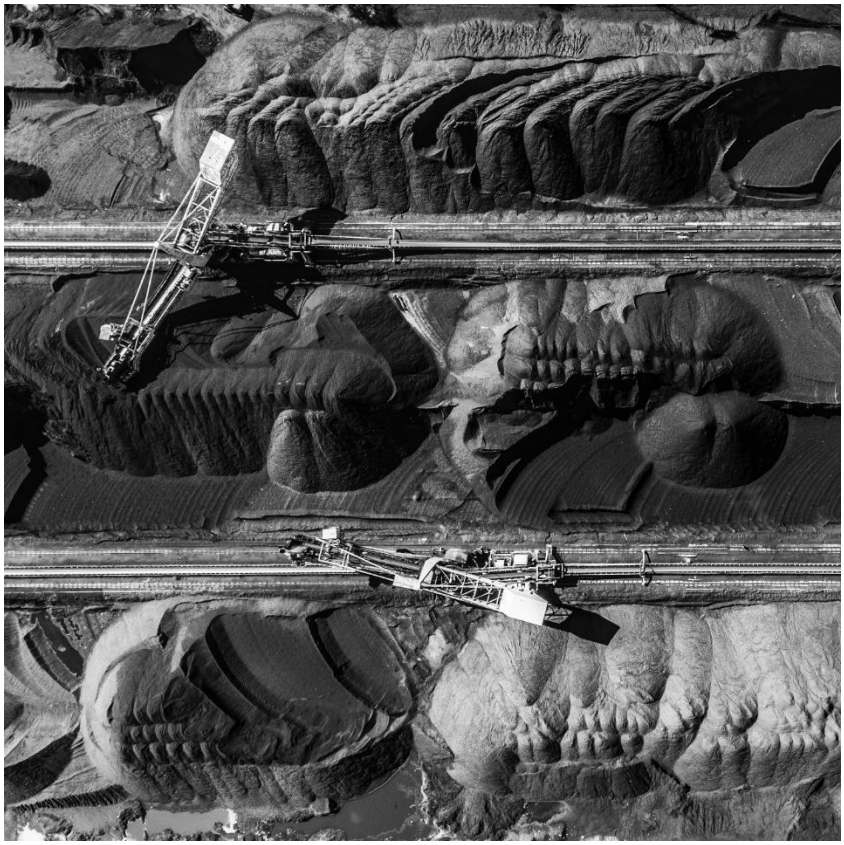
International News

Powering Post Coal Alliance (PPCA) https://poweringpastcoal.org/

The Resourceful Framework of the Powering Post Coal Alliance

By Andre Lobo, HOPE researcher VIC

The Powering Post Coal Alliance (PPCA) is a coalition of 48 nations, 49 subnational governments, and 71 organisations to challenge coal power organisations and promote the acceleration of clean energy usage. The PPCA is in the vanguard of the Paris Agreement, promoting, as a result, a consistent phase-out of coal-base electricity as the first step to tackle the current climate crisis. The history of the PPCA goes back to 2015 when all parties at the UN Convention on Climate Change agreed to a framework limiting global warming to 2°Celcius but aiming at a 1.5° increase. This decision exposed the need for a meaningful and profound transformation of modern economies and societies, starting with eradicating coal-based energy sources. Few governments initially committed to this plan, with Canada and the UK leading the way. In 2015, the United Kingdom committed to completely eliminating coal power by 2025, followed by Canada's 2016 transition announcement by 2030. Currently, the PPCA has projects categorised into five portfolios: Just Transition, Private Finance Subnational, Energy Security and Utility and Grids.



Just Transition:

With audacious plans to eliminate coal-based power, a need for job security becomes apparent. The coal power industry employs millions worldwide, and the sudden elimination of this industry and their workers is unacceptable. Just Transition is a framework created by unionists to unite various interventions necessary to secure workers' rights and livelihoods while economies are transitioning from coal to a sustainable form of production. Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Spain led these agreements. Some countries, like South Africa and Scotland, have Just Transition authorities in place, and others, such as Sweden and India, had breakthroughs in cleaner steel and cement policies. The Just Transition programme has been at the centre of the PPCA's theory of change since 2017. In 2020, the British ministers put Just Transition in the vanguard of clean energy transition programs. In addition, in 2019, the PPCA created two subgroups to support the initiative: the Just Transition Taskforce, responsible for engaging with significant coal users and providing PPCA framework and resources to promote initial transitions, and the Just Transition Expert Group, made of diverse worldly expert individuals and organisations, drawing from their expertise to drive ambitious projects aiming at transfer power from coal to clean energy sources.

Private Finance:

Despite the positive trend of renewables, a considerable amount of investment from private and public sources is still being made in unabated thermal coal power around the world. As more financial institutions recognise the benefits of moving away from coal and investing in renewables, the continuing finance of coal power institutions poses a risk to investors, left with the troublesome, costly and polluting assets on their books. To meet the Paris Agreement commitment that limits global temperature increase to 1.5°Celcius, PPCA analysts argue that coal power phase-out is needed by no later than 2030 in the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries and no later than 2040 in the rest of the world. To achieve this goal, the PPCA created the Finance Taskforce in 2020 intending to bring government and partners together in an alliance to:

- Cease new investments in coal-fired power plants.
- Phase out existing coal capacity and
- Boost investments in clean energy

This Alliance comprises over 70 members from North and South America, Europe and Asia-Pacific regions, and 33 private finance institutions accounting for just under USD$17 trillion in assets. As a member of the PPCA, actors are offered the opportunity to lead in climate action and clean energy transition, increasing their influence on the global scale.

The PPCA Finance services encompass advocating for credible public commitment to the phase-out of unabated coal power. Campaigns avoid the finance services or projects related to new or existing unabated coal-fired power plants, offer selected new products or make new investments, advocate for relevant companies to seek alternatives to new unabated coal-fired power plants, encourage others to act on coal power phase-out and share expertise with those financial institutions still engaged in coal power financing activities. The PPCA finance Expert group provides a more specific purpose for engaging in thought leadership on thermal coal phase-out, including joint advocacy among policymakers and businesses, engagement with utilities shifting financial flows from coal to clean energy and ensuring net-zero transition plans. The main Expert Group's partnerships are with Climate Action 100+ and The Investor Agenda.

Subnationals
The PPCA counts on subnational members to achieve its goal of phasing out coal energy by 2030. These members have demonstrated a growing commitment to contributing to PPCA goals. Individually and collectively, they help explain the economic and social benefits of the Transition from coal to clean energy.

Subnationals around the world helped demonstrate such commitment. Eight PPCA subnational government members in South Korea are responsible for about 80% of the country's total coal capacity. These groups operate 46 of the 60 active plants in the country, and they are, by far, the largest emitters of greenhouse gasses and contributors to the bulk of the national pollution. Because South Korea's government does not directly control these power plants, influencing policy-making at the national level is the best way to transition from coal.

Another example is Japan, where Kyoto City is leading the way in coal phase-out in the country. The current Japanese portfolio includes 36-38% of renewables, but the country still uses 19% of coal-resourced energy. Since joining the Alliance, Kyoto City has taken an active role in deaccelerating coal use and increasing renewables. Its goal is to become a carbon-free model city and share its experiences with the national government.

Around the world, the Subnational Alliance has been expanding, including members from the Philippines and the US. Additionally, in 2021, the Alliance welcomed its first subnational governments from Poland and South Africa, strengthening its influence worldwide.

Energy Security
As the world faces the consequences of climate warming, the energy crisis exacerbated by the Russian-Ukrainian war becomes more and more damaging. More than ever, countries now realise their deep dependency on coal-based industries. In 2017, the PPCA brought together organisations, businesses and governments involved in acting against climate warming to accelerate the phasing out of unabated coal power. Since then, the Transition has quickened, and the financing of new coal plants has plummeted by 76%, with most OECD and EU countries committing to a phase-out of coal power generation. The major shift, however, left policymakers worldwide with the challenge of responding to the complex issue of maintaining energy security, reducing costs and protecting consumers.

Utilities and Grids
With a growing number of jurisdictions committing to phasing out of unabated coal power, the need for an energy sector transformation becomes evident. This comes with new challenges and opportunities for innovation. The members of the PPCA strive to accelerate the Transition by working together and learning from each other, sharing expertise on how to shift the financial flow to transform grids and utilities. Grids and Utilities actors are concerned about the provision of reliable and cost-effective power as the grid transitions. Mainly, they analyse and define best practices across infrastructure and generation asset investments, clean energy technology integration, grid operation and regulatory and market design.

Latest news
With growing concerns over the climate crisis experienced in current times, in April 2023, a G7 meeting was held in Japan, where a further commitment to phase out unabated carbon power energy generation was established. The main goal of this meeting was to reaffirm the goal defined in 2022 to limit a 1.5-degree rise in global temperatures. To facilitate this Transition, G7 countries also agreed to drastically scale up renewable energy sources, collectively increasing wind and solar efficiency by 2030. This G7 commitment reflects a shared belief that climate and energy security are interdependent.

More Information:
More information can be found visiting the PPCA's website at https://poweringpastcoal.org. Furthermore, one can become a member of the PPCA by accessing the weblink: https://poweringpastcoal.org/join-us/, or subscribing for PPCA update on the weblink: https://poweringpastcoal.org/sign-up/.