



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2026 #08 --- August 2026

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 August issue of the newsletter for 2026! This month focuses on sustainability. For something different, join a HOPE researcher on her journey through waste recovery and reduction. Then learn further about waste recovery through End Food Waste Australia. If you are not already aware of "350 Australia" read the article within. Learn more about climate action with the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF). More on waste, is an article on the Salvos Stores Officially Open Australia's-first Textile Recovery Facility. You may also be aware of School Strike 4 Climate - from the ne - there is a detailed article in this issue. You may not have heard about Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA) so read ahead. And lastly, learn about the Greenshed, an organisation focused on re-use.

Kind regards,

Nina Stick, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.

2026 Environmental Observances

August

27 [World Lake Day | United Nations](#)

29 [International Day against Nuclear Tests | United Nations](#)

September

7 <https://www.cleanairblueskies.org/>

16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer | United Nations](#)

16 [International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South | United Nations](#)

20 [World Cleanup Day | United Nations](#)

24 [World Maritime Day | United Nations](#)

26 [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | United Nations](#)

October

6 [World Habitat Day | United Nations](#)

10 [World Migratory Bird Day](#)

16 [World Food Day | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

31 [World Cities Day | United Nations](#)

More detailed information on 'environmental observances' may be found at:

- [International Days and Weeks | United Nations](#)
 - [International Years | United Nations](#)
 - [International Decades | United Nations](#)
-

A message from the President

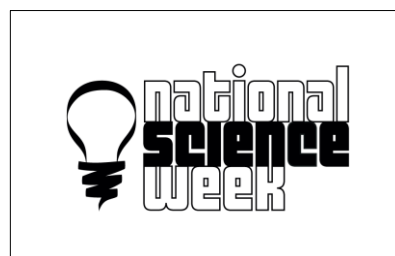
Happy August everybody!

This month we have three environmental weeks to help us raise awareness of important environmental issues. “[Keep Australia Beautiful](#)” week 3-9 August encourages us to learn something new about the environment, litter and waste behaviour. The same week marks [Landcare week](#) inspiring Australians to volunteer for landcare activities throughout our country. 15- 23 August is [National Science Week](#) which celebrates science and technology, and with it an opportunity to explore ways in which we can use those to aid and help the environment. We end August with World Lake Day inspiring us to learn about the role lakes have in maintaining biodiversity, fish habitat, drinking supplies and agriculture.

So, this month I encourage, you, our readers to get involved or strike conversation about these dates and think of small (or big ways) we can support conservation activities in our day-to-day life.

Warm regards,

Anna Kula-Kaczmarek, President - HOPE Inc. | admin@hopeaustralia.org.au



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

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

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

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

Of course, if you ‘cash in your containers’, why not donate those monies to **HOPE Inc** | Member number: C1107170.

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

General

What I Discovered by Examining One Week of Household Rubbish

Written by guest writer – Sophie O'Brien

Living in an apartment block has made me increasingly aware of how much rubbish a group of households can produce. Until recently, I would take my rubbish downstairs, place it in the communal bins and walk away without thinking much about what else was in them. Then I decided to pay closer attention for one week.

What I saw was astonishing.

The bins filled rapidly with cardboard boxes, takeaway containers, plastic wrapping, bottles and bags. Some items could probably have been recycled, while others appeared barely used. There was also a noticeable amount of food waste mixed in with the general rubbish. Seeing everything collected in one place made the scale of our consumption much more obvious. One household's waste may not look like much, but the rubbish from an entire apartment building quickly becomes a mountain.

Packaging was one of the biggest problems. Almost everything we buy seems to come inside a box, bag, tray or plastic wrapper, sometimes several layers of them. Online shopping and food delivery can add even more cardboard, soft plastics and disposable containers. Packaging may enter our homes for only a few minutes, but its environmental effects can last much longer.

Food waste concerned me just as much. Fruit and vegetable scraps, leftovers, coffee grounds and other organic materials are often placed in the general rubbish because apartment residents have no convenient alternative. Unlike people with backyards, many of us cannot simply establish a compost heap. Keeping food scraps inside a small apartment can also create understandable concerns about smells, insects and lack of space.

This is why I believe apartment buildings need a practical shared solution.

One possibility is a communal food organics and garden organics, or FOGO, bin. Residents could collect their food scraps in small kitchen containers and empty them into a clearly labelled communal bin. Depending on the service available through the local council, these materials could then be collected and processed into compost instead of being sent away as general waste.

Where a council FOGO collection is not available, an apartment building could investigate a communal composting system. This would need to be properly planned and managed. Residents would require clear instructions about what can be added, and someone would need to monitor the system to prevent contamination, odours and pests. The finished compost could potentially be used in shared gardens, planter boxes or landscaped areas around the building.

Introducing a communal bin would not solve every waste problem, but it would make the consequences of our daily choices more visible. Signs near the bins could explain what belongs in each container. Residents could also receive a simple guide when they move into the building. Clear information would help people participate confidently, rather than expecting them to understand an unfamiliar system immediately.

The body corporate, the building manager, the residents, and the local council would all need to be involved. A small trial might be the best place to start. The building could introduce one food scrap bin, explain the system to residents and review the results after several weeks. If the trial worked well, it could then be expanded.

My week of observing our rubbish taught me that waste is easy to ignore when we only see our own small bag. In an apartment block, however, the combined result is impossible to overlook. It also showed me that many residents may be wasting food and recyclable materials simply because the building does not provide convenient alternatives.

People are more likely to make environmentally conscious choices when the right facilities are available. A communal FOGO or composting system would provide apartment residents with a practical way to reduce waste together. Sometimes environmental responsibility begins with something as ordinary and as revealing as looking inside the bin.

National items

End Food Waste Australia: Working Towards a More Sustainable Food System

Written by Fidelia, HOPE researcher WA

Every year, millions of tonnes of food are wasted across Australia, while valuable resources such as water, energy, land, and labour are lost along with it. Food waste also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and growing landfill pressures. Yet much of this waste is avoidable.



[End Food Waste Australia](#) is leading national efforts to help Australia halve food waste by 2030 through research, collaboration, education, and practical action across the food system.

One of its major public campaigns is [The Great Unwaste](#), which encourages Australians to reduce food waste at home through simple everyday actions such as planning meals, storing food properly, using leftovers creatively, and understanding food labels more clearly. The campaign highlights how small behaviour changes across households can collectively create significant environmental and economic benefits.

The organisation also supports initiatives such as the [Australian Food Pact](#), which brings together businesses, organisations, and industry leaders to reduce food waste throughout supply chains and improve sustainability practices across the food sector.

Food waste is not just an environmental issue. Addressing it can help lower emissions, save households money, support food rescue efforts, and create a more resilient and responsible food system for future generations.

At HOPE, responsible and sustainable stewardship of the environment includes recognising the value of the resources we consume and reducing unnecessary waste wherever possible. Everyone can play a role, from households and communities to businesses and governments.

Let's remember that reducing food waste begins at home, where small kitchen habits can make a big difference for our planet. Together, everyday actions can help build a healthier and more sustainable future.

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350 Australia



Climate change is real and the impacts are already being felt by many communities. 350 Australia is a not-for-profit organisation working for climate justice led by First Nations communities, young people and people on the frontline of fires, floods and rising seas. The name 350 references 350 ppm, which is the maximum level of CO₂ in the atmosphere that scientists say will allow the planet to remain liveable. With current levels at 415 ppm, the number 350 represents both a goal and a reminder of the urgent actions needed to achieve climate justice.

To this end, 350 Australia are working to grow the climate movement in Australia to end the use of fossil fuels and develop community led solutions to the climate crisis. Guided by 9 pillars of climate and land justice, 350 Australia is running campaigns such as Our Islands Our Home, a campaign led by Torres Strait Islander peoples to protect the islands of the Torres Strait from the impacts of climate change; and Protect Larrakia Country, which aims for the return of Lee Point to the Larrakia people as well as the prevention of the Middle Arm gas hub in Darwin. Other campaigns focus on issues such as making large coal and gas companies pay for emissions, working with local councils in NSW to create all electric gas-free buildings and contributing to the Climate Justice Coalition.

350 Australia have a clear road map of what needs to be done by 2050 to create a better future where Country, climate and communities thrive and the impacts of climate change are overcome.

To keep up to date with 350 Australia, you can follow them on Facebook or Instagram. To learn more, offer support or sign up to their newsletter: <https://350.org.au/>

(Written by Sara Washer – HOPE researcher VIC)

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Jerry Coleby-Williams

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Turning Climate Knowledge into Action: The Role of NCCARF in a Changing World- *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.*

(Written by Gloria Mutesi – HOPE researcher (Int – Uganda)



Climate change is no longer a distant concern but a present reality affecting economies, ecosystems, and everyday life. In Australia, rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, bushfires, floods, and coastal erosion are placing growing pressure on communities, infrastructure, industries, and natural systems. These challenges require more than awareness; they demand informed, coordinated, and forward-looking action. In this context, the **National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)** plays a vital role in helping Australia understand, prepare for, and respond to climate risks by turning climate research into practical guidance for policy, planning, and adaptation action.

Aims and Objectives: Established by the **Australian Government in 2008** and hosted by **Griffith University**, NCCARF was created to strengthen Australia's capacity to adapt to climate change by connecting research with real-world decision-making. Its core aim has been to generate and communicate the knowledge needed by governments, industries, local authorities, and communities to manage climate risks more effectively. Rather than producing research for academic purposes alone, NCCARF focuses on identifying vulnerabilities, supporting adaptation planning, and making climate evidence more accessible, relevant, and usable for those making decisions in real time.

Major Achievements: Over the years, NCCARF has built one of Australia's most extensive bodies of climate adaptation knowledge, covering sectors such as water, agriculture, biodiversity, health, infrastructure, coastal management, emergency response, and community resilience. A major achievement has been its funding and coordination of national adaptation research through thematic networks and commissioned studies addressing practical challenges, including urban heat, coastal infrastructure, drought resilience, food security, and adaptation for disadvantaged and Indigenous communities.

Current Work and Contributions: A very key contribution of NCCARF is its ability to make climate adaptation research more accessible and practical for decision-makers by synthesizing evidence into user-friendly guidance. Its impact is further strengthened through collaboration with universities, government agencies, industry, and communities, ensuring that adaptation strategies are informed by both scientific research and real-world experience.



Partnerships and Collaboration: Collaboration has been central to NCCARF's work in making climate adaptation research practical and nationally relevant. It worked with universities such as **Griffith University, Macquarie University, QUT, James Cook University, and Murdoch University**, as well as **government agencies, local governments, industry bodies, coastal managers, emergency agencies, and organisations like Surf Life Saving Australia**. Through research networks, commissioned studies, workshops, conferences, and decision-support tools, these partnerships helped turn scientific evidence into practical adaptation strategies and strengthened Australia's capacity to plan for climate risks.

Why NCCARF's Work Matters: NCCARF is important because it shifts the focus from simply understanding climate change to preparing for it effectively by providing **credible, practical, and accessible knowledge**. It supports better planning, stronger policies, and more resilient communities. Its work shows that effective adaptation depends not only on new discoveries, but also on how well existing knowledge is applied.

Ways to Get Involved:

- **Website:** Explore NCCARF's research, synthesis reports, case studies, and adaptation resources. <https://nccarf.edu.au/>
 - **Synthesis Resources:** Read NCCARF's climate adaptation summaries, policy briefs, and practical guidance <https://nccarf.edu.au/synthesis/>
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salvos
STORES

Salvos Stores Officially Open Australia's-first Textile Recovery Facility in Brisbane

Salvos officially opened a textile recovery facility in Carole Park, Brisbane on March 25th 2026, the first of its kind for Australia. The Salvation Army have operated recycling depots in Australia since the 1880s, recycling used goods and providing access to those goods for those who need it most. Today, the Salvation Army operates 419 Salvos stores across Australia and this new facility represents the next step in their commitment to recycling textile waste.

The facility will **process and sell up to 5,000 tonnes of textile waste a year**, collected through Salvos stores and business partners. Through the facility, textiles will be sorted into those suited for resale and those not suitable. The saleable items will be resold through Salvos stores, while the unsaleable will continue through the facility to be decontaminated and processed. The resulting processed textiles can then be transformed into products such as insulation, plastics, yarn, woven cloth and acoustic panels. The facility will also allow Salvos to offer take back textile recycling services for un-resaleable textiles and clothing such as uniforms.

While the textile waste recycled at the facility will only be a dent in the over 200,000 tonnes of clothing that Australians send to second-hand stores each year (plus another 200,000 tonnes to landfill), it sets a precedent which could see the development of similar facilities across Australia, creates employment opportunities in the local community and establishes a circular textile economy, which together will help reduce Australia's textile waste.

If you're interested in getting involved, the facility is currently applications for volunteer textile sorters at the facility.

Read more about the facility here: <https://www.salvosstores.com.au/textile-recovery>



(Written by Sara Washer – HOPE researcher SA)

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School Strike 4 Climate – Critical Overview

Written by Nalayini Shiyamasunthar-HOPE researcher NSW

School Strike 4 Climate is a prominent youth-led environmental movement in Australia, urging government authorities to implement meaningful policies addressing climate change. The movement originated in 2018, inspired by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and the global Fridays for Future movement (Fridays for Future, n.d.; Thunberg, 2019). Since then, School Strike 4 Climate has mobilised thousands of Australian school students to participate in strikes and public demonstrations, calling for stronger climate action and highlighting the urgency of the environmental crisis (School Strike 4 Climate Australia, 2024).



FIGURE 1: ABC News: Billy Draper

At its core, the movement frames climate change as both an urgent and deeply personal issue, especially for younger generations who will experience its long-term consequences. The movement emphasises that environmental degradation disproportionately impacts youth and future generations, motivating many young people to speak out and demand action. Rather than seeing themselves as passive victims, participants in School Strike 4 Climate are taking an active role in shaping their future and challenging established political norms through grassroots activism (Han & Ahn, 2020; Wahlström et al., 2019).

In the sociological sense, the School Strike for Climate is an exemplary example of collective behaviour that defines new approaches to political activism. The strike questions the established system of age stratification and brings into focus the role of youth in policy discussions. Moreover, it highlights the principle of inclusiveness and recognizes the contributions of the First Nations people.

However, there are some limitations to the movement. First, while it is often suggested that symbolism might result in real changes in policy only through institutional involvement. Moreover, the differential level of participation due to various reasons -socioeconomic status, education, location, etc., can affect who participates in the movement.

On the whole, the School Strike 4 Climate shows the possibilities for youth activism and its transformative impact on environmental discussions and politics. However, it also reveals the problem of implementing the results achieved in grassroots movements into effective policy-making.

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Women's Environmental Leadership Australia (WELA) –

www.wela.org.au

Written by Jessica Keegan, HOPE Researcher VIC

There is always a need for new opinions in the environmental sector. With limited change in responding to environmental and climate crises, WELA steps up to empower women to take the step forward into environmental leadership.

As mentioned on their 'About Us' Page, "Women's leadership is often collaborative, networked and responsive to communities" which is something that some notably lack within current leadership.

The original roots of such an empowering organisation come from an Australian Research Council project that revealed the vitality of women in environmental movements, lack of representation in leadership and lack of support for women who wanted to progress into those roles. The accumulation of workshops and more research led to the mapping and formation of WELA in 2016, originally an annual leadership development program for women. The formalisation of WELA as an independent organisation began in 2020 where a new and expanded plan was adopted to 'transform Australia's response to these crises.'

WELA is the organisation making waves to remove barriers that keep women from entering leadership space, which is denying the people and planet a sustainable and thriving future. They aim to represent, cherish, protect, nurture and support women who wish to develop a stance in the world of environmental leadership.

The projects they support are not limited; they just must be by women for the environment or for a sustainable future. This can go from university graduates running their first local council campaign to First Nation scientists caring for their country. The aim is to create a safe future, and women have the leadership qualities to 'positively influence local communities, businesses, industries and government in their own unique ways'.

Every day the environment is facing new challenges: the rapid rates of climate change, biodiversity losses from deforestation and more human-involved events, and pollution from a varying range of sources. As sourced on the 'About Us' for WELA, there is international evidence out there of the impactful decision-making skills women have that will better improve environmental outcomes across the globe.

WELA offers a multitude of events like webinars, learning circles and workshops to develop the way women can communicate, listen, and act for justice, equality, diversity and inclusion in the environmental sector.



What does WELA do with their community as an organisation?

- **Empower:** Utilising programs to develop women's leadership through skill, confidence and networking.
- **Support:** Allowing a place for women to come together and grow into a community that provides guidance, opportunity and hope for a better, safer future.
- **Fund:** Provide funding to help women pursue typically economically unviable advocacy and climate action to progress environmental leadership and achievements.
- **Diversify:** Bring together a range of diverse cultures, backgrounds and sectors to make sure environmental leadership works towards having leaders with well-rounded cultural knowledge and values.

Each day many women are born, and the significance of organisation like this in Australia is increasingly needed to shape and support them as they grow up and learn how to be equitable and act in the name of justice, not just environmentally.

Please consider donating to fund their cause or subscribe to their newsletter so you and others out in the world can continue to support the development of happier and safer ecosystems and societies around the world.

Resources



The Greenshed

Written by Cassandra Adofo-Kissi - HOPE researcher ACT

The Greenshed is a Canberra organisation focused on re-use. Its' name is derived from over 30 years of work spent at green sheds in Mugga Lane and Mitchell. While they lost their contract to manage these sites in 2024, they have continued as a smaller organisation in 2025 with the same objectives. The Greenshed promotes responsible waste and asset management by taking a pragmatic approach to Re-Use solutions to fulfill people's needs and minimise landfill.

The Greenshed achieves this by striving to promote the benefits of re-use some of which are:

- Good For The Environment-Re-Use provides a real alternative to the disposal of items
- Good For The Community-Re-Use saves items from landfill, provides low-cost goods and makes a way for unwanted items to be taken away
- Good For The Economy-Makes business sense and does not drain community resources.

Achievements

The Greenshed operates the Green Underground Shed a shop that is opened 11:00 am to 5:00 pm Wednesday to Saturday and Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. This shop features over 5000 pieces of clothing priced at \$7 and assorted Bric a Brack items for \$5 or less. The shop also sells good quality furniture, selected curated vintage, books, CDs and records. It also includes the Greenshed Upcycled store that promotes fresh ways to wear old clothes, and includes 100% rescued textiles, and original designs that are Canberra made. For more information on the Greenshed of any of its' products and services please visit <https://thegreenshed.net.au/>

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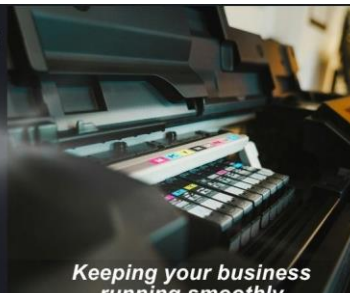
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