

HOPE e:news bulletin - Sunday, 15 June 2008

Hi everyone,

This bulletin is a bit later than usual because I've had exams to do. Good luck to everyone else who's in the same boat!

We have had lots of news items to report about, so I have made a selection. There are also some great events coming up in which you might like to take part, like the Youth Climate Conference here in Toowoomba. Let's get active for our environment and our future!

Miriam Sharp, HOPE secretary, hopequeensland@yahoo.com.au

Office news

Robyn has stepped down as newsletter editor. We thank her for her outstanding contribution over the years.

We are now looking for a replacement editor - please consider if **you** would like to take on this role.

Give-aways and exchanges

For anyone who is interested in back issues of the 'New Internationalist', Steph from Toowoomba has a pile that she would like to give away. She also has too many eggs, so if you would like some please contact the office.

If there is anyone who has something to give away, or exchange for something, let us know and we can put it in the bulletin. Rather than throwing it away, you might be able to help someone out and help protect the environment.

General

Who on Earth Cares is a new campaign from the Australian Conservation Foundation bringing together Australians from all walks of life who share a concern about climate change. If you care about climate change, put yourself on the map today at www.whoonearthcares.com. See who else in your area shares your concerns, and what they have committed to doing for the environment.

A message from WWF

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) for a living planet.

All of WWF's work relies on the committed and generous gifts from our supporters, for which we offer you our sincere thanks. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- **Conserving** the world's biological diversity;
- **Ensuring** the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- **Promoting** the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

If you have any questions about WWF and our work, please call our Supporter Relations team during office hours on 1800 032 551, or email to enquiries@wwf.org.au.

Sustainable Building Guide

Carbon Market is an online market place where you can find a wide range of low carbon emission products and services from a large number of suppliers and retailers. One of their products is a sustainable building guide. Whether you are building a new home, renovating or upgrading and want a dwelling that's energy efficient, this popular guide was written for you. Real solutions that work all put together in one guide that's easy to read, understand & use. Check it out at http://www.carbonmarket.com.au/documents/Sustainable_Building%20Kit_Final.pdf

The Queensland Youth Environment Council

The Queensland Youth Environment Council (QYEC) is a joint initiative between the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation, and the Minister for Education, Training and the Arts. The Council, established in May 2007, comprises 30 young people (aged between 16 and 25 years) from across the State, who meet two or three times a year to consider and provide advice to the Queensland Government on specific environmental sustainability issues. The key purpose for the QYEC is to:

- Provide a youth perspective to the Queensland Government on key environmental sustainability issues facing Queensland, and
- Act as youth leaders to enhance awareness and inspire other youths to take action to achieve a more environmentally sustainable future for Queensland.

The key environmental sustainability issues on which the Ministers have initially sought the Council's advice include: climate change, water use, renewable energy and wildlife conservation. Involvement in the Council also provides members with a chance to build their knowledge of environmental issues and practice, and to develop other skills such as public speaking and professional communication, as they participate in Council forums and report back on Council deliberations to their respective schools or organisations.

For more information on QYEC contact:

Anna Keenan - Chairperson QYEC

Community Outreach Officer

Australian Conservation Foundation

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The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has released three new initiatives to help householders save energy and money while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These are:

- a new television labelling scheme to enable consumers to identify the most energy efficient sets at point of sale;
- a new guide to help householders and in particular renovators identify ways to incorporate energy saving measures into their homes; and
- the accelerated phase-out of traditional incandescent light bulbs.

For more information, visit www.environment.gov.au .

Updates on upcoming events

Toowoomba Youth Climate Conference

Youth Climate Action Toowoomba and the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) are organising a **Youth Climate Conference**. Young people from around Toowoomba are coming together to learn, skill share and discuss climate change. The conference is a chance for you to be involved, learning and be active about our environment and climate change. The conference will take place on **Friday 25 July** at Laurel Bank Park Hall, 50 Hill Street. There will be various workshops and speakers, including Al Gore trained Anna Keenan. You can also take part in the **tree planting day** with Council on **Sunday 27 July** at Picnic Point at 9am.

Register now with YCA:

Ph: 0412 667065 or 07 4632 1505.

Email: youth.climate.action@gmail.com

PO Box 1306, Toowoomba 4350.

Free wetland management workshops

The Queensland Wetlands Programme is running a series of free workshops around the state to provide government and local council representatives, conservation and industry groups with an opportunity to view the latest information and tools for managing wetlands. The one-day workshops offer opportunities to consider local case studies, to network with wetland managers and a chance to provide feedback on current wetland management activities. The workshop will be held around Queensland on the following dates:

Mackay - 18 June

Toowoomba - 23 June

Townsville - 4 July

If you are interested in attending or for further information please contact Angela Reed at angela.reed@epa.qld.gov.au or (07) 3006 4621.

Adorn Me Exhibition

Reverse garbage has organised the "Adorn Me" Exhibition. This is an exploration in the art of adornment. Come and see at Reverse Garbage 296 Montague Road West End 07 3844 9744 until 19th July.

Free weed management workshop and field day

Toowoomba Regional Council, SEQ Catchments and the *Land for Wildlife* program wish to take this opportunity to invite you to a Weed Management workshop and field day held in the Crows Nest district. The premise of the workshop is to provide some guidance on how to approach managing your native bushland. The workshop aims to:

- provide weed management techniques
- advise landholders on improving the health of their remnant vegetation
- provide opportunity for like minded landholders to meet and exchange ideas and success stories on nature conservation on their properties.
- provide basic plant identification techniques.

Come and learn some new techniques, meet your local *Land for Wildlife* Extension Officers and learn about what other landholders have achieved and learned through their conservation and land management experiences.

The workshop will include a demonstration of weed control and a botanical walk through Hartmann Park and Apple gum reserve. The workshop is a half day event with Morning Tea and Lunch provided. The date is **Saturday 14th June 2008, 9.30 -1pm** at Hartmann Park entrance William Street Crows Nest. Please RSVP to Land For Wildlife officer at Toowoomba Regional Council on 4698 1155 or 0417 193 665 or email Kym.Campbell@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

Riverfestival presents the 11th international **Riversymposium** in Brisbane on **1-4 September**. The full detailed draft programme, showcasing outstanding international speakers, is now available for viewing at www.riversymposium.com. Early-bird Registrations close **Monday 30 June**. Please be aware that to be eligible, both registration and payment must be received by the Riversymposium Office by this date.

News from our Mutual Support Partners

Help Us Help The Earth - www.helpushelptheearth.com.au

A new initiative by Landcare Australia and Banrock Station aims to save hundreds of thousands of megalitres of water nationwide - by simply asking Australian households to reduce their water use by 10 per cent.

Please play your part in this worthwhile initiative. Go to <http://landcare.placestories.com> and check out what landcarers in Queensland are achieving.

Gene Ethics backs WA Government call on GM foods

Gene Ethics fully supports WA Premier Alan Carpenter's call for labels on all Genetic Manipulated (GM) foods and for all GM food approvals to stop while these unsafe foods are fully safety tested. "We join the Premier in calling on all Australian governments - through the Health Ministerial Council - to swiftly meet the public's rights to safe food and to know a food is GM. All governments must back the WA call for basic changes to the present GM food standard.

Though 93% of Australian adults want all foods made using GM techniques to be labelled, most GM foods - refined soy, corn, canola and cottonseed oils, starches and sugars - are all exempt under the present GM food standard 1.5.2," Mr. Phelps says.

For more comment contact Bob Phelps 03 9347 4500 or 0449 769 066

Bob Phelps - Executive Director Gene Ethics

60 Leicester St, Carlton 3053 Australia

ph: 1300 133 868 or 03 9347 4500; Fax: 03 9341 8199

Email: info@geneethics.org and <http://www.geneethics.org>

Office hours

The office and library are open on the following days:

Mondays, 1pm - 5pm

Wednesdays, 9am - 1pm

Fridays, 1pm - 5pm

or by appointment.

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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