

HOPE e:news bulletin - Monday, 28 July 2008

Hi everyone,

Here is another bulletin with lots of information. We want to share with you the knowledge and passion so that you too can make a difference for the environment and for our future. And if you pass it on again to others, they can do the same so that we create a network of information and action. Let's all do our little bit to make this world a better place!

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

Office news

Invitation to Show and Tell - Saturday, 6 September

Ian Simons has a passion for permaculture and for scavenging chickens in particular. Last week Frank and I visited Ian at his property in Helidon. We were given a wonderful tour of the place and came home with lots of information. We invited Ian to come for a SHOW AND TELL about his passion. He will be in Toowoomba at the HOPE social gathering on **Saturday, 6 September**. We will have afternoon tea while enjoying Ian's presentation. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend and BYO chair.

General

Reducing your footprint by what you eat

An award winning healthy eating project has been initiated and has a group of community nutritionists throughout Queensland aiming to eat local produce within a 500 kilometer radius of their residences. The Queensland Food and Eco - Challenge encourages us to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth by eating locally grown and seasonal produce, cutting back on animal produce and reducing processed foods - this ensures a healthy diet and environmental benefits. Students in their final year at Queensland University of Technology Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics have won an award after developing the Queensland Food Challenge and an accompanying website. The student's project stands for a back to basic approach by using fewer resources and ensuring our food supply for the future. They have produced a food wheel so people can choose fruit and vegetables that are in season and so reduce the numbers of kilometers food has to travel before it appears on our plate and save money. In Australia, our agriculture section accounts for almost 60 percent of our total methane emissions and food production in total makes up 30 per cent of our overall green house gas emissions. The

students have developed a set of dietary guidelines based on research on the sustainability of the food supply in Australia and the UK. For more information visit www.qldfoodchallenge.com and www.nutritionaustralia.org

Raw milk opportunity in Australia

Localism is an awareness that is effortlessly sweeping the globe. More and more, we are realising the benefit of sourcing our food locally. Just launched is a service for those who would benefit greatly from localism: dairy farmers and real milk consumers.

Herdshare.com is a place where you can register your interest in having a local [real milk](#) supply in your region.

A herdshare is a Community Supported Agriculture arrangement where a group of people buys a herd of cattle (or other ruminants) and employs a farmer to manage their herd. It is a way to establish a secure local milk supply and support our farmers at the same time. If you're a consumer of real milk who wants to secure a local supply of healthy clean unprocessed milk, a dairy farmer who wants to manage a herd and earn a better income or you're looking for a part time job, sharing the milk with shareholders at your local farmer's market, join herdshare.com and we'll put you all together. As soon as enough people in your region are assembled and a farmer and sharer has been employed, you're ready to go. To keep farmers on the land, connect consumers with farms & support localised real milk & dairy products, herdshare.com is a great tool. Tell your friends to sign up, especially if they're farmers. Let's establish a consumer base so large government has no choice but to certify real milk. And let's do it now! Sign up for the newsletter to register your interest and we'll let you know the progress of herdshares all round Australia.

Opening of Sustainable Homes

Another home is opening as part of the Smart and Sustainable Homes program. The Sustainable Home Doonella, **Noosa**, will be opened on **4 September** by the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Information and Communication Technology. The Minister will also be launching the new version of the Smart and Sustainable Homes Design Objectives. Some interesting research on water, energy and thermal comfort is being carried out in the Sustainable Home Currumbin - Living Laboratory, located at the Ecovillage at **Currumbin**. The home is being officially opened by the Minister on **20 August**. More information on the website. Currently there are three homes open for display at Caboolture, Toowoomba and Hervey Bay. More information can be found on the website: www.sustainable-homes.org.au.

Public Consultation on the Sustainable Housing Discussion Paper

To support the release of the Sustainable Housing discussion paper, the Department of Infrastructure and Planning will be conducting a road show throughout a number of regional centers across the state. Comments and suggestions on the discussion paper are encouraged. Register your attendance at a consultation meeting by phoning the Department of Infrastructure and Planning on Freecall 1800 682 021 or visit a display. The discussion paper can be found on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning's website at:

www.dip.qld.gov.au/sustainable-living/improving-sustainable-housing-in-queensland.html

Queenslanders are encouraged to have their say during the consultation period, and a response form is enclosed within the discussion paper. All the consultation dates and venues are also on the website. **Submissions close 12 September 2008.** To attend the consultation events, please RSVP via: sustainablehousing@dip.qld.gov.au

The National Water Commission

The National Water Commission is an independent statutory body in the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts portfolio. Its role is to drive the national water reform agenda. Established under the National Water Commission Act 2004, the Commission provides advice to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and the Australian Government on national water issues. More information about the Commission and the National Water Initiative is available at www.nwc.gov.au

Resources

Going Green Grants for Schools

The Green Door Foundation is calling for Expressions of Interest from educators working in or with Queensland primary and secondary schools.

Grants of \$1000 to \$5000 are available. The **closing date is 24 October 2008** with the winner announced by 24 November 2008. The project will be run in the 2009 school year.

"We are looking for innovative projects that will encourage the school community (including parents where possible) to take active steps towards a greener lifestyle," said Trish Parrott, Green Door Foundation Grant Administrator. "The ideal project will effect real change and act as a model for other schools to adopt." Winning projects are those that prepare students and their families for the challenges posed by climate change and damage to the environment. Examples are installation of solar panels, energy

audits and kitchen gardens. **Please request a Fact Sheet and Expression of Interest Form from:**

info@thegreendoor.com.au or from Trish Parrott, Green Door Foundation Grant Administrator on (07) 5543 8555.

Designing for Sustainable Living

Designing for Sustainable Living is an online curriculum resource for Middle and Senior Years of schooling. The learning object addresses sustainability in the home environment through things like the siting and orientation of a house for solar design, natural ventilation, vegetation, resource management and social issues related to these choices. This resource can be accessed on: www.build.qld.gov.au/research/sustainableliving.

For further information on the learning object contact:

Project Officer

Built Environment Research Unit

Department of Public Works

Tel: (07) 3224 4961 or Email: Roslyn.edols@publicworks.qld.gov.au

Updates on upcoming events

Spring 2008 - Walking with Wildflowers

Stanthorpe's Rare Wildflower Consortium is again preparing to host a series of Wildflower Walks in Spring. Since 2004, these walks have been immensely popular with locals and visitors to the area. The walks are open to anyone interested in learning more about the unique local flora of the Granite Belt. The following walks are planned for Spring 2008:

Sunday 24th August Amiens State Forest

- Meet at Amiens State School, 1337 Amiens Road, Amiens

Sunday 7th September National Threatened Species Day - Junction Track, Girraween National Park

- Meet at Bald Rock Creek day use area

Sunday 5th October Donnelly's Castle, Pozieres

- Meet in the picnic area

Sunday 2nd November Mount Norman (South), Girraween National Park

- Meet at Mount Norman day use area

All walks start at 9:30am and aim to finish by 12:30pm. For further information contact Liz Bourne on 07 4683 6374

Australian Volunteers International Information Session Brisbane

AVI's next Volunteer Recruitment Drive starts on Saturday 9 August. Attend an Information Session and talk to returned volunteers about their experiences of living and working in Asia, the Pacific, Africa or the Middle East. Come and talk to AVI staff about how you can get involved and about current assignments. The next Information Session is on

Thursday 21 August 2008, 6.00 - 7.00 pm, Brisbane Square Library (Central City), 266 George Street, Brisbane

Visit the website to RSVP to this information session:

<http://www.australianvolunteers.com/index.asp?menuid=180.030.010>

News from our Mutual Support Partners

From Make Poverty History:

Take action now - Write to Professor Garnaut, the Government's key Advisor on climate change.

On Sunday 13 July Make Poverty History released a report "[See the bigger picture. Act on climate change](#)" in response to the draft Garnaut Climate Change Review released in early July. The review by Professor Garnaut will be used by the Government to help develop Australia's response to climate change. The policies that wealthy countries like Australia adopt in the future will have profound ramifications for everyone, including the poorest people in the poorest countries who are the most affected and the least responsible for causing climate change. While these people don't get a say, you do! The final Garnaut report will be released on 30 September. Between now and then you have the opportunity to submit your comments on this crucial report. Make Poverty History has provided [a letter to assist you](#) to have your say and influence the final report. So print off copies of this letter, share it with your friends and post it to the Garnaut Review Secretariat.

From the Social Action Office

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day on **August 4** celebrates indigenous children. It also reminds us of the great need for indigenous children to have the same access to health, housing, education and protection as other Australian children. All children are sacred. **TAKE ACTION NOW** -Urge the Government to refocus the Northern Territory Intervention. Write to our politicians and urge them to amend the Emergency Response Legislation of 2006. Contact your local member, the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Minister and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs by email. Go to the Australian Federal Parliament [website](#) and follow the links for email contacts. For suggested wording download: [Word](#) version or [PDF](#) version.

From The Change Agency

Climate change is the challenge of our times. People are responding in a million ways: reducing their carbon footprint, voting for policies to avert dangerous climate change and participating in collective action. Through these actions, a people's movement is building - globally, nationally and locally. It's a movement that's engaging and mobilising more people every day. The 'Building the Climate Movement Online' project aims to understand how the Internet is being used to build this movement in Australia, and how online tools might be used to greater effect. As part of the project, we'd like to invite you to contribute to an online questionnaire.

Click to start the questionnaire:

['Building the climate movement online' questionnaire](#)

For further details about this action research project visit the project webpage:

http://www.thechangeagency.org/01_cms/details.asp?ID=73

Library and Office hours

HOPE's library resources are available:

- Monday, 1pm-5pm
- Wednesday, 9am-1pm
- Friday, 1pm-5pm
- or by appointment.

There are books, journals, magazines, videos and CDs - a full list of titles is available by emailing the HOPE office at hopequeensland@yahoo.com.au

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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