



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #01 - 8 January 2011

The following items have been gleaned 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.

(compiled by Miriam Sharp and Frank Ondrus, HOPE Australia)

Hello there!

*Welcome to the new year! I trust you've had a good break. Thank you to all the people that have sent us lovely messages about our enews. It is nice to hear that our work is appreciated by so many people. So here goes, another enews bulletin. This enews mostly provides an update on all the exciting things happening over the next few months. First cab of the rank is HOPE's strategic planning meeting on **15 January**. For more information see the Office News. All are welcome. See you there!*

Miriam Sharp, Editor - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Update on Upcoming Events

15 January 2011 HOPE strategic planning meeting **See Office News**

2 February 2011 World Wetlands Day - http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-wwds-wwd2011index/main/ramsar/1-63-78%5E24770_4000_0

9 February 2011 - Socially Inclusive Transport Ecomobility Services (SITES) Forum, Toowoomba
Cost: Free. Venue: Cedar Centre, 36 Baker St, Toowoomba. Time: 1pm-5pm
Convenors: Rama Naidu and Delroy Brown - e: th96724@bigpond.net.au

1 March 2011 - Clean Up Businesses Day - <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-business>

4 March 2011 - Clean Up Schools Day - <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-for-schools>

6 March 2011 - Clean Up Australia Day - <http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/clean-up-australia-day>

6-12 March 2011 - National Ground Water Awareness Week - <http://www.ngwa.org/>

7 March 2011 - National Sea Week - <http://www.mesa.edu.au/seaweek2011/>

22 March 2011 - World Water Day - <http://www.worldwaterday.org/page/3206>

23 March 2011 - World Meteorological Day - http://www.wmo.int/pages/index_en.html

26 March 2011 - Birds Australia Southern Queensland *Conservation Conference* - enquiries phone 07 5445 7965 or email: plainswanderer@powerup.com.au

Office news

Welcome to 2011! Although quite a few of you are still on holidays, the HOPE office has been busy preparing for the year ahead. We have scheduled a Strategic Planning Meeting for Saturday 15 January; and set dates for 3 Public Information Forums - 9 Feb, 9 Mar and 13 Apr. We have also confirmed our participation in this year's Clean Up Australia Day event (6 Mar); and USQ "O" Week (23 Feb). We are seeking FREE sites at Toowoomba's *Gardenfest* (early May) and *Home & Lifestyle Expo* (mid Oct) - both 3-day events. Lastly, we are keen to host a mid-year *Greenfest* event in Toowoomba - more on this event later.

Strategic Planning meeting

You are invited to join the management committee at a Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday 15 January at QMDC (Queensland Murray-Darling Committee) headquarters, 127B Campbell Street, Toowoomba (western side of railway line). The meeting will commence at 8.30am sharp! We will be reviewing local day to day operations as well as national networking activities; as well as:

- carried forward projects such as promotion of Transition Towns; and Going Solar seminars
- proposed projects, events and activities for 2011
- development of various business documents such as business plan, marketing strategy and sponsorship package
- discussion on 5 and 10 year plans - looking at operating funding; establishing a new and expanded Environmental Education and Resource Centre and office for HOPE; initiating a regional Environmental Networking Partnership program.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 12 January to book your place.

Review of Membership list

As our email address book has blown out to 850+ entries, we have decided to separate our "contacts" from "members and supporters".

Contacts will be classified as NGOs, business, government and media.

Membership will be classified as:

- full members - voting rights - individuals, families and others who have completed the relevant membership form
- associate members - "non-voting rights" - MSPs (Mutual Support Partners); online subscribers and others who indicate their support of HOPE

More information on this exercise will be available shortly.

Volunteers needed

As you are well aware, the HOPE organisation is managed entirely by volunteers - both locally and remotely by email/phone.

Please consider donating some of your time and talents to HOPE, by helping us promote sustainable living practices in YOUR local community.

Volunteers are needed to help with office admin; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for projects, events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets. There are also times when we need personnel "to be on staff" at events.

Contact the HOPE office on ph 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to volunteer your services.

Frank Ondrus, President

2011 Environmental Observance Themes

[International Year of Forests](#)

[International Year of Chemistry](#)

[International Year for People of African Descent](#)

[World Veterinary Year 2011](#)

[Year of the Bat 2011](#)

[United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-2012](#)

[Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People 2005 - 2015](#)

[United Nations International Decade for Action: Water for life 2005-2015](#)

[United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014](#)

[United Nations Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions 2006-2016](#)

[Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty 2008-2017](#)

[United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification 2010-2020](#)

Queensland News

Northy Street City Farm (NSCF)

Northy Street City Farm is a non-profit community organisation located on Breakfast Creek in Windsor, Brisbane. The farm has been developed around the principles of permaculture and is designed for people to enjoy and participate in. NSCF holds regular farm tours and a wide variety of workshops and information sessions. [Click here](#) for more information.



Food Labelling

Queensland Conservation has the view that a national food labelling scheme should be introduced. It should provide consumers information about a variety of things including the amount of embedded water used in production and the embedded energy and transport distances. This would ensure the provision of adequate information relating to food to enable consumers to make informed choices.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Lock the Gate National Action - TARA 2011

The national movement against coal and coal seam gas mining, farmers and environmental groups around the country are backing a three-day event, including displays, workshops and direct action, at Tara on the western Darling Downs in Queensland. The event will be held on the 8th to the 11th of February 2011 local organisers The Western Downs Alliance are engaged in a confrontation with the British Gas-owned QGC that intends to establish a gas field early 2011 on the Tara rural residential estates, home to more than 2,000 people.

Farmers, environmentalists and scientists have been warning the State and federal governments for some time that CSG activities are potentially hazardous to human health, agricultural land and underground water and could damage the Great Artesian Basin for centuries. They have called on these governments to impose a moratorium on the industry until all outstanding social and environmental issues have been addressed.

Their only response has been to give the companies the go-ahead to bulldoze their way onto people's properties and conduct an uncontrolled experiment on the Australian environment, meanwhile crossing their fingers that nothing disastrous happens - at least while they are in office.

Tara 2011 will be based at the Tara Showground and supporters are urged to gather showing the widespread popular concern. Remember, the coal seam gas industry has plans to move into many, many parts of Australia so, while this is happening on the Western Downs now, it could be happening in your area tomorrow. For more details or to register your intention to participate email tara2011@lockthegate.org.au, or telephone 07 4669 4864, or go to <http://westerndowns.group-action.com>

National News

Video



Clean your house the eco-friendly way!

The majority of today's cleaning products are chemical based and very harmful for the environment. This video shows how to clean your house using everyday non-toxic products, that you may already have in your kitchen cabinets. It's safe, cheap and better for our planet. Use lemon juice, salt, vinegar, water and bicarbonate soda instead of bleach and other chemical products. Switch disposable cloths for reusable ones and newspapers. If you don't have enough time to make your own cleaning products, buy eco products or brands.

[Read more...](#)



Clean Up Australia Day 2011

The Clean Up Australia Day 2011 campaign is off to a great start with over 1,100 Clean Up Sites registered across Australia. For more information or to register/volunteer at a community, business or school Clean Up Site visit: www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au.

Dates for the Clean Up Australia Day 2011 event:

Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday, 6 March 2011

Business Clean Up Day - Tuesday, 1 March 2011

Schools Clean Up Day - Friday, 4 March 2011

Clean Energy Australia



There was more solar power installed on rooftops between January and October this year than for the entire previous decade, according to the Clean Energy Australia 2010 report. The increased affordability of solar power in Australia meant the technology was fast becoming "the Hills Hoist of the 21st century", according to Matthew Warren, the chief executive of the Clean Energy Council, Australia's peak body for more than 450 renewable energy companies. There were more than 100,000 solar power systems installed during 2010, compared with a total of 81,232 from 2000-2009. Click [here](#) to download the report or visit www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au.

World News

2010 review: The year in environment

It's been a tough year for the environment, as bad news came thick and fast

<http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/shortsharpsscience/2010/12/2010-review-the-year-in-enviro.html>

Resources

EcoEarth.Info - <http://www.ecoearth.info/about/>

EcoEarth.Info is an Internet search tool that provides access to reviewed environmental sustainability news, information retrieval tools, and original analysis and action opportunities.

EcoEarth.Info is a one of a kind Environment Portal - with genuine Internet search, cutting biocentric commentary & constant news and link tracking - and dedicated to achieving global environmental sustainability.

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EcoEarth.Info is a project of [Ecological Internet](#) which carries out a number of [projects](#) and provides [consulting](#) services. Ecological Internet has a small but [highly skilled and dedicated staff](#).

Helpful Hints

Green Cleaning Chart (Quick Reference) - The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe

Item	Cleaning Method
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Kitchen:

Oven Cleaner	Scrub with bicarb soda & water OR vinegar paste
Dish Detergent	Soap jelly* (1/4 cup) OR grated soap (2 tablespoons)
Surface Cleaner	Vinegar (in spray bottle) OR All Purpose Spray*
Floor Cleaner	Boiling Water with vinegar & bicarb soda OR soap jelly* (1/2 cup)
Abrasive Cleaner	Bicarb soda OR salt
Drain Cleaner	1/4 cup bicarb soda with 1/2 cup vinegar - followed by boiling water. Plunge if necessary. OR combination salt & vinegar
Drain Deodoriser	5-6 drops eucalyptus oil OR 1/2 cup vinegar or 1/4 cup bicarb soda

Laundry/Bathroom

Laundry detergent	1 cup soap jelly* OR 1/2 cup grated soap (dissolved in hot water)
Stain Removal	Lemon juice or Stain Remover*
Water Softener	Washing Soda OR Bicarb soda (1/4 cup per full washing tub)
Fabric Whitener	Lemon juice OR vinegar
Disinfectant	Vinegar or mixture of half vinegar/water and few drops eucalyptus oil
Bath/Tiles	Bicarb soda and wet sponge OR vinegar OR Surface Spray*
Mildew/Mould	Vinegar OR Surface Spray* OR 1/2 lemon dipped in bicarb soda
Toilet Cleaner	Basin: Vinegar & bicarb soda Lid: Vinegar OR Surface Spray*
Toilet Deodoriser	Pour in: Vinegar (1/2 cup) OR 6 drops Eucalyptus oil (into basin)

Other:

Carpet Deodorant	Bicarb soda (plain or add few drops lavender or eucalyptus oil)
Carpet Cleaner	Soapy water OR Bicarb soda
Wooden Furniture	Wipe with lemon juice & olive oil (half/half) OR use Surface spray*
Window Cleaner	Spray: half vinegar/water OR crumpled newspaper
Labels (jars)	Eucalyptus oil
Chewing gum	Eucalyptus oil
Walls	Bicarb soda & water OR (for difficult stains) Surface Spray*
Air-freshener	Spray room with: half vinegar/water with added scent (i.e. lavender or eucalyptus oil) OR simmer fresh flowers on stove
Plastics	Bicarb soda paste OR vinegar

Recipes:

***Soap Jelly:** Grate one bar of soap. Put one half in one 10 litre bucket. Put the other half of grated soap in another 10 litre of water. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup washing soda and 2 litres of boiling water to each bucket. Stir both buckets until mixture has dissolved. Top each bucket up to full with water. (From Booklet No. 50 - Recycling Soap).

***Surface Spray (All-purpose Spray/Stain Remover):** Mix together 1/3 cup each of water, cloudy ammonia and liquid soap-jelly (see above recipe) OR bio-degradable dishwashing detergent. Mix and store in recycled spray container. (More information: Booklet No. 50 - Recycling Soap)

MORE INFORMATION in the following booklets: Green Cleaning (No. 23): Back-to-Basics Cleaning (No. 24), Amazing Bicarb - (No. 9), Versatile Vinegar (No.33), The Humble Lemon (No. 10), Uses for Eucalyptus Oil (No. 51), Recycling Soap (No. 50), Homemade Polishers & Cleaners (No. 5:)

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