



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #03 - 13 March 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, Frank Ondrus and Chris Withers, HOPE Australia)

Hello,

Welcome to another HOPE e:bulletin. Autumn is just about here, after what was surely one of the most dramatic summers that any of us can remember. Now we can start to look ahead to the rest of the year with enthusiasm. We are very excited about the development of a Business Plan for our organisation - the workshop in January has given us some very specific goals for the coming months and year.

As the days start getting shorter and the busy shopping season wraps up, read on about the transport and logistics that goes into our groceries, clothes and essentials. The "letter to the editor" by Sam Manger can also help us stay aware of many of the consequences of our shopping choices, both on the environment and the people that produce them. Under the 'Resources' heading you will find some links that can help you in the right direction.

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

"If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it"
Mary Engelbreit

Update on Upcoming Events

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

4-7 April 2011 - International Symposium on Organic Matter Management & Compost Use in Horticulture, Adelaide, www.compost-for-horticulture.com

5-6 April 2011 - National Sustainable Food Summit, Melbourne, http://www.3pillarsnetwork.com.au/p3_Events-Resources.html?&event=68&page=1

[International Year of Forests 2011 - Celebrating Forests for People](#)

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness on sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. Visit the [International Year of Forests 2011 website](#) to find information regarding events being organised throughout the International Year as well as interactive web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests. You are also invited to provide information through the website about how you plan to celebrate "forests for people" during 2011, so that your stories and initiatives can be showcased.

Office news

The last few weeks have been busy and productive with highlights being:

- holding of our annual strategic planning meeting (15 Jan)
- repositioning (and refreshing) of our *Environmental Information Displays* at Toowoomba TAFE, the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) and the Toowoomba City Library
- attendance at Friends of South-East Queensland's *10th Anniversary celebrations* in Brisbane (29 Jan)
- finalising our guest speakers for the March, April, May and June *public information forums* (see Date Claimers below)
- distribution of Membership Survey
- information display at USQ's "O" Week event (23 Feb)
- change of web hosting service - a lot of work done by Stephen Warburton - thanks!
- participation in Clean Up Australia Day (6 Mar) with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Toowoomba 32
- General Meeting (6 Mar) - *copy of minutes available on request*
 - Ngairé Winwood has stepped down from the treasurer's position and Victor Skowronski has taken on this position
- Public Information Forum (9 Mar) Sustainability for Small Business

Please take note of the HOPE activities scheduled over the next few months (as per Date Claimers below) and turn your support into **participation**.

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.

Date Claimers:

13 Apr - Public Information Forum - Howard Nielsen on the *Green Street* program
7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

21 Apr - Earth Day - www.earthday.net

3 May - HOPE executive meeting ... all welcome; 7.30pm at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

11 May - Public Information Forum - Rob McCreath, Friends of Felton, on *the Future of the Toowoomba Region - quarry or clean energy centre*

7pm-9pm, Jacaranda Room, Grand Central Shopping Centre, Toowoomba

5 June - Pathways to Sustainability Expo,

5 June - General Meeting, 6 pm at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

"The interconnectedness of all things on Earth means that everything we do has consequences that reverberate through the systems of which we are a part. When we reclaim this ancient understanding, we will recover the sense of responsibility that it entails." - David Suzuki, 'The Sacred Balance'

Helpful Hints

Green Manure crops in your food garden, by Peter Kearney

It may seem to be a waste of time and effort to grow a crop that you just dig back into the ground - often before it's even reached maturity! But, as Peter Kearney from Cityfood growers explains, it's the quality of your soil that gives you quality crops - and your soil needs feeding too!

[Read 'Green Manure crops in your food garden'](#)



HOPE Business Planning Day

"Despite a very grim week for Toowoomba and surrounds that week, six dedicated members gathered their thoughts and their energy on 15th of January to brainstorm for HOPE Australia Inc. Facilitated by Swift NRM's Leisl Coggan, the group had a detailed look at HOPE's operations and made some exciting plans for the organisation for the coming year. Key outcome of the day was the development of a mission statement for the organisation:

"HOPE Australia's mission is assist householders with their efforts to minimise waste; conserve water, energy and other resources".

Particular activities highlighted during the workshop included

- * changes to membership communication,
- * development of a cost/benefit assessment for HOPE's activities, and
- * the development of a speaker's package.

In the coming weeks Swift NRM will be delivering the first draft of a Business / Marketing / Operational Plan for Hope and a package which will allow the association to seek corporate sponsorship. These documents will help provide a framework for HOPE Australia into the future. The energy and commitment of these members is greatly appreciated and will go a long way to shaping the coming activities and operations of HOPE. Thanks must go to everyone for their involvement."

Letter to the Editor

Dear friends,

Re: Consumer Conscience - Together we can make the change

I write this to you with the offer of joining us in a new project.

Ever looked into how most of our products and many of our foods are produced? The majority of our products are manufactured on the exploitation of human rights, the environment and its ecosystems. Fact.

We are now looking for more people who want to pick a product/resource, research it and then write a brief article about it. This includes information on the current practices used in the manufacturing/harvesting of this product, the companies that support negative or positive practices and then companies that offer an alternative.

The goal is to compile these articles written by 50 or so people on 50 or so products. You can just pick one. We can then spread this information via whatever method it takes, e.g. books, ebooks etc. This is to be more of a brief 'lonely planet' like guide book to fair and sustainable consuming, rather than an in-depth analysis.

We have to learn to be responsible for what we do in our life. It is time for us 'consumers' to grow up.

We have already learnt a great deal and informed many people in our lives of our findings which has helped them to make positive changes.

Together we can make the change. It doesn't take as long as you might think.

Sam Manger, mob 0403 235 349, e: sam.manger@uqconnect.edu.au

Feature Articles

Supply and Logistics by Emma Synnott, ARUP, www.arup.com.au

How will the future shape the way we buy our groceries, clothes and essentials? As our new sofa makes its way from the manufacturing floor to our bare living room, what innovation will make this journey a thing of wonder?

Transport-related carbon is responsible for around 14% of Australia's total carbon emissions. This alone must be a focus for future design of supply chain and logistics. But carbon is not the whole story. The supply chain for products goes beyond logistics to how products are manufactured, and some would argue to our choice of one product over another. It is clear we cannot stop at carbon but must consider all the other inputs - water, materials, land-take. In the case of food - our most basic requirement - how do we handle the dwindling supply of that critical building block phosphorous?

It is clear we are entering a new age of transformation. One which moves us even further from post-industrialist patterns of supply to one which designs and delivers ultra smart, ultra efficient and ultra 'light' products when they are needed. Industry supported by their consulting partners will be at the forefront of this shift. No one would complain however, if governments got on board to help shape the strategic vision for a more sustainably supplied Australia.

(Sourced from WME Magazine, December 2010)

Create a cleaner future with Century Batteries

CenturyYuasa Batteries, Australia's oldest and most recognised battery manufacturer has launched a National Battery Recycling Program designed to inform motorists and homeowners on the importance of battery recycling and help reduce the impact of used lead acid batteries on the environment. Used lead acid batteries contain hazardous materials which if not handled correctly may prove harmful to humans, wildlife and the local environment. It is estimated that 1 in 5 Australian households have a used automotive battery on their property, which poses a serious environmental and health risk, particularly when 98% of a used lead acid battery is recyclable. According to Allan Woodford, Marketing Manager for Century Yuasa's Automotive division,

"As a responsible business it is important that we manage the 'cradle to grave' process of manufacture, distribution and responsible disposal of used batteries. In many cases we have found that people are simply unaware of how or where to dispose of their used batteries correctly and as a result we often see batteries discarded with household waste, at local refuse sites or dumped on road sides. The Battery Recycling Program provides motorists, homeowners and business with the outlets and resources to dispose of the batteries correctly and is also focused on educating people on the importance of recycling used lead acid batteries to reduce their environmental impact."

To support the scheme Century has created a dedicated recycling website www.recyclemybattery.com.au and a national contact number 1300 650 702 where motorists, homeowners and businesses can find their nearest CenturyYuasa Battery Recycling Centre. The site features over 800 approved recycling sites nationally, ensuring coverage throughout metro and regional Australia and also contains useful information and advice on all aspects of battery recycling.

Century's scheme has become extremely popular and attracted the support of leading environmental groups including Planet Ark, Inside Waste and Greenpages. For more information on the CenturyYuasa Battery Recycling program visit www.recyclemybattery.com.au

PSF installs new public recycling systems

The Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council works with partners across Australia to deliver a voluntary industry product stewardship program on behalf of Australia's largest beverage companies and their packaging suppliers. Its members include Amcor, Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, Coca-Cola Amatil, Fosters, Lion Nathan, Owens-Illinois, Schweppes and Visy. Programs target Australia's major away from home venues where large numbers of people gather and consume beverage packaging that can readily be recycled. Its current focus is on the rollout of new public recycling systems in shopping centres, airports, stadia, entertainment venues and higher education institutions across Australia.

Over the past 18 months, in Queensland the PSF has installed new public recycling systems (many in partnership with the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management), carrying the call to action to *Do the Right Thing Use the Right Bin*, at various venues such as:

- * Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney Airports Qantas terminals
- * Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney Airports Virgin Blue terminals
- * Brisbane International Airport Terminal
- * Mackay, Gold Coast, Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton Airports
- * A number of Lend Lease, Westfield and Mirvac Shopping Centres in Queensland and Interstate
- * Wet N Wild Waterworld
- * Warner Bros Movie World
- * Ballymore Stadium (a partnership with Queensland Rugby), Carrara Stadium, Skilled Park Stadium, Dairy Farmers Stadium, The Gabba, Suncorp Stadium
- * Cairns, Gold Coast, Mackay, Brisbane Convention Centre, Entertainment Centre and Exhibition Centre
- * Queensland Rail - 5 CBD stations
- * James Cook University, Bond University, University of the Sunshine Coast, Griffith University and University of Queensland
- * Sunshine Coast and Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE

The PSF also provides free recycling and litter signage support to communities across Australia. Our latest *Do the Right Thing* signage program (awarded late in 2010) has provided support to 37 local councils/shires, schools and community groups across Australia. Among those successful were Queensland's Redland City Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council who will collectively receive 3000 waste and recycling stickers, 600 posters and 16 road signs. Over the past three years, more than 400 councils and community groups have received *Do the Right Thing* signage. During 2010, a collective total of more than 31,300 anti-litter roadside signs, recycling and waste bin stickers and posters have been provided to 95 councils and communities across Australia!



Queensland News

Friends of Felton (FoF) Public Meeting at Toowoomba Indoor Bowls Club

Wednesday 16 March, 10 Annand St. Toowoomba 7pm start. A public meeting focussing on the human health impacts of coal mining. Dr Dick van Steenis, a world-renowned authority on the subject, is coming to Australia. FoF is delighted he has agreed to speak in Toowoomba. This is a very important meeting for residents of the Toowoomba region. We will send fliers etc as soon as final details are sorted out. We need volunteers to put up fliers beforehand, and also to help on the night, e.g. ushers, door keepers, etc, so please reply to this email if you are able to help. We'll be setting up from 5.30pm. 700 people attended the meeting at Gowrie Junction last week. There is no doubt that the residents of Toowoomba are starting to realise the scale of the threat that mining poses to their health, their environment, and their way of life. Let's keep the pressure on our elected representatives to take a stand before it's too late!

Bat Conservation & Rescue

Bat Conservation & Rescue formed in February 2007 to address the increasing demand for assistance for our bats in the South East corner of Queensland from Caboolture to the Gold Coast. With over 53 camps in the Greater Brisbane region, the call for our rescue services is increasing each year. Our aim is to provide a humane service to rescue and rehabilitate sick, injured and orphaned bats and return them to the wild as soon as or whenever possible. BCR provides education to the public through literature, 'Batty' talks at flying-fox colonies, and community events like the Batty Boat Cruise and World Environment Day. We give a voice to bats by having a liaison role with a working group in Biosecurity Queensland and co-authored a factsheet 'Living with Flying Foxes' produced by Queensland Health.

October to February is the busiest time of the year for our organisation. It's baby season! Orphans come into care for many reasons. A mother could be found entangled in backyard fruit tree netting or attacked by a dog. One of our rescuers received a call in early December about a bat found on the footpath at Teneriffe. The rescuer arrived to find mum dead on the ground with no obvious cause. Examining mum, there was no evidence of burns from contact with overhead power lines or trauma from a car strike. Tucked under mum's wing and holding on for dear life was a tiny baby about four weeks old. The baby was underweight and in desperate need of fluids and care. The baby named *Hope* bonded very quickly with her new human mum and thrived. Hope was wrapped in a mumma roll for the first few weeks until she could hang and play on an ailer and then outside into a Batmax. Flapping and playing she strengthens her wings in the batmax until she is old enough to join her new extended family at the crèche site at Cleveland. At about 16 weeks of age Hope will leave the crèche and join the colony at the Black Swamp. She will fly off, as many hundreds have done before her to contribute to the seed dispersal and pollination of our Australian forests. Our hope is that Hope will live a long and healthy life.

Bats account for almost one quarter of all mammals on Earth and are essential to maintain a healthy ecosystem. In recent years, their populations have plummeted around the world because of loss of habitat, deforestation, disease and human disturbance. The United Nations Environment Program Convention on Migratory Species and ERUOBATS have joined to celebrate European Year of the Bat 2011 - <http://www.yearofthebat.org/> 2012 will be The International Year of the Bat.

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld volunteers took over 2,000 rescue calls for bats in the Greater Brisbane region in 2010, cared for over 800 injured or starving bats and lovingly cared for over 100 little orphaned baby flying-foxes and 20 tiny orphaned microbats. We are always looking for new volunteers - could you help us with our important work? Perhaps care for a little baby like Hope? Our rescue helpline number is 0488 228 134. www.bats.org.au .

Condamine Crusaders are on the rise

Condamine Alliance recently announced that eight high schools from across the Condamine catchment have been successful in becoming 'Condamine Crusaders'. The 'Condamine Crusaders—Students caring for our environment' program launched last year will allow high school students to promote positive environmental action in their school and community. Condamine Alliance's CEO, Phil McCullough said "We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to high schools throughout the Condamine catchment. As the leaders of tomorrow it is imperative that young people understand and are prepared to act upon the environmental issues that we face and can be creative in developing effective local solutions."

Students were invited to apply for funds of \$500 to start an environment club or \$1000 for an existing group to carry out an environmental project at their school. "Environmental projects completed by Condamine Crusaders will address issues that are important to youth today and create local solutions to help the environment as well as the school and the community", said Mr McCullough. Other high school students from across the Condamine catchment are encouraged to consider becoming Condamine Crusaders in 2011. For further information visit the [Condamine Alliance website](#). (Sourced from *The Bugle, Q2 Coasts and Country's weekly e-newsletter, 11 February 2011*)

Green Journey Community News

Green Journey Community News is a monthly newsletter aimed at connecting residents, farmers, educators and organisations with sustainable options within their communities in the Sunshine Coast and SEQ region. The newsletter provides a free event listing and relevant activities including what's on in the upcoming month relating to:

- *Community Gardens* including workshops, volunteering and growing your own food in a plot;
- *Permaculture Groups & Transition Towns* to share practical skills about organic gardening, seed saving, food security and building resilient communities;
- *Farm Tours & Local Food Systems* to enable consumers to connect with farmers & fresh produce;
- *Workshops and Courses* (many are free) on everything from worm farming & composting to self reliance and renewable energy;
- *Garden, Food & Environmental events* and *Native Landcare* groups;
- *School Gardens, Garden Clubs* and *Farmers Markets*; and
- as well as relevant information on green topics.

Subscription is free by sending an email to: anne@greenjourney.com.au or phone 07 5445-9194; 0407 777 049. Relevant groups and organisations can also submit events for promotion.

Queensland Landcare Conference

Join the Wombat Creative team for the 22nd annual Queensland Landcare Conference taking place in Ayr from 20 - 23 September. An exciting program of speakers is being finalised, field trips are being developed and social events are coming together. Stay tuned to landcare publications for the first announcement of speakers (or better yet, why not join the Queensland Landcare Conference community on Facebook).

Registration fees will be kept low, thanks to our generous sponsors and there are still opportunities to present papers (but you have to be quick) or book a trade exhibition. Registration will open early April. <http://tinyurl.com/wombat40>.

Ecospecifier is now FREE

Ecospecifier is a leading global source of sustainable development and life-cycle assessed green product information, with a knowledge base of over 6000 eco-products, eco-materials, technologies and resources. This valuable website is now **free to air**. To access the [ecospecifier website](#) use the following login:

Login: Free and **Password:** ecospecifier.

Office of Climate Change Weather ebulletin

OCC Weather ebulletin covers a broad range of climate change policy and science topics at both a state and federal level. Subscribe to the OCC Weather ebulletin by emailing occ.communication@derm.qld.gov.au.

Free home sustainability checklist available now

Want some useful, easy to follow steps to green your home and lifestyle? To download GreenBizCheck's free home sustainability checklist now [click here...](#)

2011 Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Awards!

The Queensland ClimateSmart champions award nominations are open. These awards recognise environmental leadership in business, industry, schools, local government and communities; particularly green innovations and projects.

These Queensland awards foster sustainable commerce and development by promoting and encouraging environmental leaders in all sectors.

Entries should relate to projects or initiatives that are Queensland-based and have the potential to be adopted or adapted by other organisations. But be quick as nominations close soon on 4 March!

Winners will receive \$5 000 cash to support on-going or future sustainability projects and category winners will be announced at the 2011 awards dinner held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 10 June.

All Queensland-based companies or projects that are sustainability champions, are encouraged to nominate.

For further information about the Awards categories and an online application visit the [Department of Environment and Resource management website](#) or phone 3225 1764.

Volunteers needed

HOPE is looking for extra volunteers who can help in the following areas:

--- Admin assistance; literature review and follow-up internet research; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.

National News

Trees For Life

Richard St. Barbe Baker, (1889 - 1982) now recognised and honoured as an environmentalist ahead of his time, devoted his life to bringing about his vision of a tree-covered earth peopled by nations who lived in harmony with nature. He saw forests as a vital organ within the self-regulating, life-sustaining whole, and recognising himself as part of this whole, he felt the urgent need to protect, conserve and plant more trees. St. Barbe Baker's organization, Men of the Trees, later became known as the 'International Tree Foundation' and now has active groups in over 100 countries. It is estimated that over 26 trillion trees have been planted internationally by organisations that he founded or assisted. **Trees For Life** (TFL), the South Australian chapter, was established in 1981 by a group of inspired volunteers after attending a presentation by Baker. Now, 30 years on, TFL annually grows over 1.25 million local native seedlings for rural properties with the help of approximately 1,500 South Australians who volunteer to grow hundreds of seedlings in their backyard every summer. These trees, which are given to farmers and landholders below cost, are planted to combat salt, reduce wind and water erosion and provide shade for stock, or as vegetation buffers around patches of remnant vegetation providing vital protection.

Planting trees, especially quick-growing native trees that will not be logged or burned, removes carbon from the cycle and sequesters, or "fixes" it within the wood itself. TFL offers two National Carbon Offset Standard compliant options. The carbon program allows businesses and community groups to offset all or some of their carbon emissions by funding carbon credits from renewable energy projects and support the establishment of local native species plantings. When land is cleared extensively valuable habitat is lost, species disappear and weed and pest species move in. Trees For Life works to undo the damage by reintroducing native plants to degraded areas and caring for the bush that remains through its **Bush For Life** groups. The Bush For Life program has more than 300 established sites across South Australia covering more than 4000 hectares of native vegetation. Trees For Life has developed programs in response to community demand and environmental need. Each year over 1 million seedlings are grown, and to date over 29 million seedlings have been propagated. Community driven, non-political and not for profit, Trees For Life is the largest volunteer organisation of its type in Australia.

Trees For Life provides opportunities for people to do something practical to improve their local environment. It relies on the goodwill and commitment of thousands of members and volunteers from all walks of life who have built it from the ground up. From its humble beginnings, Trees For Life is now one of South Australia's most successful and respected environmental organisations.

Contact details for Trees For Life

Email: info@treesforlife.org.au ; Website: www.treesforlife.org.au

Pulling Soil Carbon and Food Security Together

A US Studies Centre conference in Sydney this month heard how [Australia is at the forefront of the scientific understanding of soil carbon](#) and how policy-makers here are ahead of the curve when it comes to thinking about ways to reward farmers for improving soil quality by building carbon content.

[Save our farmers](#)

The responsibility for quality produce and sustainable land care lies not only with the farmers, but with us as consumers as well.

How Organic Farming Sequesters Carbon

Synthetic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, produced through the use of fossil fuels, destroy soil life and leach organic matter from the soil while [natural fertilizers \(compost, manure, cover crops, crop rotations, and intercropping\) increase soil carbon](#). When animals are packed into factory farms, their waste piles up and releases the potent, fast-acting greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide, but when animals are raised outdoors on enough pasture and rangeland to absorb their waste, they don't pollute. Composting food, garden and paper waste reduces the amount of organic matter in landfills and cuts greenhouse gas emissions.

Why We Need a Container Deposits System (CDS)

Australians consume drinks in over 12 billion containers a year. Only half of these are recycled, mostly collected via kerbside and much less, away from home (food halls, events, public spaces). The other half are littered or landfilled representing a big waste of resources. If they were recycled - the energy, water and raw materials used in and pollution from container production would be significantly less. In addition thousands of new jobs would be created; charities helped; and crucially, hundreds of new convenient drop-off centres established - at no cost to government.

A CDS has been proven worldwide to be the best way to increase collection and recycling. South Australia has had a CDS for over 30 years and now the Northern Territory will have one in 2011. It would increase recovery to 80% - over 4 billion extra containers a year. Despite vigorous campaigning by environmental groups over many years the bigger states like New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have failed to adopt the system. Industry has invented the myth that kerbside collection will be financially disadvantaged. However the last three government-supported studies have shown this to be wrong - in fact local government kerbside benefits.

Now we have a chance for the national introduction of container deposits with state and federal environment ministers commissioning a 'regulatory impact statement' - an important legal step - and some states even considering unilateral action. The final phase of our CDS battle will be fought over the coming 18 months. Find more information at <http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au/cash-for-containers.html>

Resource - 101 Secrets for a Successful Environmental Volunteer Group

From the suggestions of participants in the Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 2009 Community Forum, the CMA has recently produced the excellent resource 101 Secrets for a Successful Environmental Volunteer Group. For any additional information please contact Helen Kemp, Community Support Officer, Sydney Metro CMA 02 9895 6207 or Helen.Kemp@cma.nsw.gov.au.

4 degrees hotter

Global political failure to reach agreement on greenhouse gas reduction measures in accord with the scientific imperatives will result in 4 degrees Celsius of global warming by 2100, if only the present levels of commitments by nations are realised.

There is now talk of, and planning for, adaptation to a 4-degree warmer world. But is that realistic, or delusional?

The consequences of 4 degrees are almost unimaginable, and appear to be poorly understood outside the scientific community.

Climate Centre Primer: ["4 degrees hotter"](#) (PDF, 15 pages)

<http://www.climateactioncentre.org/sites/default/files/4-degrees-hotter.pdf>

Blog: [4 degrees hotter: an adaptation trap?](#)

<http://climatecodered.blogspot.com/2011/02/4-degrees-hotter-adaptation-trap.html>

Plastic Bag Free Suburbs

<http://www2.acfonline.org.au/category/reduce-waste/blog/lane-cove-community-strive-plastic-bag-free-suburb?eid=13428>

Planet Ark Celebrates 18 Years of Achievements

Planet Ark is turning 18 this year so for the month of March we are asking you all to get involved and help us celebrate. Tell us what you would like us to achieve in the next few years and you'll go in the running to win a share in over \$900 worth of prizes! For more info and to enter, [click here](#).

Zero Carbon Australia plan, revisited

In 2010 the Beyond Zero Emissions group released a report with the University of Melbourne's Energy Research Institute claiming that Australia could be powered by renewable energy sources by 2020. Here its lead authors reply to some of the points raised by Dr Mark Diesendorf's review of the report in ECOS 157. [Learn more](#)

New report on household attitudes to sustainability

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) has published the new report [Environmental Sustainability: understanding the attitudes and behaviour of Australian households](#).

This report describes research that aimed to understand the water and energy use and waste reduction attitudes and practices of Australian households and how these have changed over time. Although there is a growing body of research investigating the determinants of household sustainability practices and interventions that can positively impact on them, very little of this research has been conducted in the Australian context and there is no systematic examination of how the key socio-demographic variables of tenure, household composition and household income influence household sustainability practices.

Australia admits CO2 emissions will balloon

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/australia-admits-co2-emissions-will-balloon-20110208-1alqn.html>

Uni bans bottled water

In a world first, an Australian university has banned the sale of bottled water and provided retailers with a profitable environmental alternative. This ban will prevent the sale of 140,000 bottles of water a year on the University of Canberra campus. [More >](#)

Investing in the Future

Australian Ethical has released its summer edition of Aim High, a publication on ethical and sustainable issues and investments. This edition includes Australia's first climate change shareholder resolutions and the positives of geothermal energy and smart grids. [Read more...](#)

Awards for earth days, weeks and years

THE organisers of Earth Hour know it takes more than 60 minutes to reverse the impact of centuries of over-consumption on the environment.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/earth-hour/awards-for-earth-days-weeks-and-years-20110130-1a9pg.html>

Renewable energy

<http://www.themonthly.com.au/renewable-energy-comment-guy-pearse-2988>

Every year the sunburnt country receives enough solar energy from above to meet its current annual energy consumption for 10,000 years. From below, there's enough geothermal energy for 2.6 million years.

World News

Drought in the Amazon

Things are not looking good in the Amazon. Here are some links to informative articles and videos provided by Heather Peirce:

- <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/amazon-drought-threatens-to-speed-warming-20110204-1agv2.html>
- <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=amazon-drought-spurs-greenhouse-gas>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12356835>
- <http://www.google.com.au/search?q=drought+in+amazon&hl=en&prmd=ivns&source=univ&tbs=vid:1&tbo=u&sa=X&ei=RJIITfjxBIjfcvNjOwF&sqi=2&ved=OCDOQqwQ>

EC+10 Report now available

The 10th anniversary of the Earth Charter was celebrated with multiple events around the world throughout 2010.

[Click here to see an overall report on these activities.](#)



The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

Sorting the truth from the trash, *G* tells you all you need to know about this toxic accumulation of tiny plastic fragments in the North Pacific Ocean. [More >](#)

Ice sheets melting faster than expected: NASA

Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets are shrinking more quickly, suggesting United Nations projections for sea-level rise are too conservative, NASA says.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/ice-sheets-melting-faster-than-expected-nasa-20110310-1bp9q.html>

Rio 2012: Making it Happen

The *Rio 2012: Make it Happen* newsletter is produced by the Rio 2012 Secretariat in the Division of Sustainable Development of DESA, with input from UN System Offices and other international governmental organizations, Member States and Major Groups from around the world.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=40>

Italy's solar boom

The massive increase in Italy's solar power capacity over the past 12 months puts the spotlight on the country's renewables policy - and illustrates just how quickly big solar can be installed.

New food system needed to feed world's growing population

A new report, published by Foresight, the UK Government's futures think tank, argues for fundamental change to the global food system, and beyond if a rapidly expanding global population is to be fed over the next 40 years ... www.peopleandplanet.net/?lid=29593§ion=33&topic=23

Global solar power growth doubled in 2010: study

The *European Photovoltaic Industry Association's* latest report shows that the world added about 16 gigawatts of new solar photovoltaic (PV) power in 2010, double the growth seen a year earlier.

<http://www.epia.org/publications/epia-publications.html>

Resources

Website Summaries, compiled by Chris Withers

www.walk.com.au

As the address implies, walk.com.au demonstrates and promotes the benefits of non-vehicular transport. www.walk.com.au is the website of The Pedestrian Council of Australia Ltd (PCA). PCA is a non-profit organisation whose objectives among other things, are to promote walking as a mode of transport; include pedestrian safety in all urban and transport planning and enhancing the health and welfare of the community. Membership of the Pedestrian Council of Australia Limited is by invitation of the Board of Directors to individuals and institutions having interests or concerns of like nature to those of the PCA. Located throughout the website are links to various topics ranging from "Walk to work day" to the launch of the NSW Speed camera system. Links to articles from media sources can be found ranging from NSW Parliamentary Staysafe committee to a review of fines and the demerit point system. Contact details for PCA Phone (02)9968-4555 or visit www.walk.com.au

GreenSmart® pots

Developed in Australia, GreenSmart® offers the perfect way to safely grow high quality produce whilst combating the rising cost of living, ever tightening water restrictions and availability of healthy, fresh food. The self-contained system can also be used to easily grow completely organic vegetables and herbs. GreenSmart® pots employ a clean, modern design that is not only functional but aesthetically pleasing, is a self-watering pot and manufactured from food grade plastics. Not only are GreenSmart® pots ideal for the private home they are perfect for commercial production of vegetables, herbs and flowers. So if producing organic vegetables is your preferred option to buying contact GreenSmart® on phone 1300 571 882 or email: info@greensmartpots.com or www.greensmartpots.com

EcoEarth

EcoEarth.info is a search engine with a difference. Demonstrating many wonderful links to Environmental news, Earth Alert, Earth Blog and Environment links this website is a must for the favourites bar. All you ever need is available from this search engine, links to news articles, how you can contribute, Subscriptions the list goes on. See for yourself at www.ecoearth.info don't forget to add to your favourites bar.

Greenpeace

In 1971, a small team of activists set sail from Canada to "bear witness" to underground nuclear testing on a tiny island off the West Coast of Alaska. They believed a few individuals could make a difference. This island was the last refuge for 3000 endangered sea otters, and home to bald eagles, peregrine falcons and other wildlife. Later that year the nuclear tests were ended and the island became a bird sanctuary.

Today, Greenpeace is a global organisation. Based in Amsterdam, Greenpeace has 2.65 million financial supporters worldwide, and national/regional offices in 41 countries. As an independent campaigning organisation that uses non-violent direct action to expose global environmental problems they are committed to force solutions which are essential to a green and peaceful future. Greenpeace's goal is to ensure the ability of the earth to nurture life in all its diversity. The website contains large amounts of information on how you can act locally to support Greenpeace. Activities include lobbying local parliament members, fund raising, the list goes on. More information can be found on their website www.greenpeace.org/australia

Planet Ark

Planet Ark is an Australian not-for-profit Environmental organisation, founded in 1992. Planet Ark supports individuals and businesses who want to reduce their day-to-day impact on the environment. Currently Planet Ark are running campaigns dealing with Aluminum Can Recycling; Palm Oil Free - deforestation in South East-Asia; Carbon Reduction Label and Recycling Information Services.

Planet Ark aims to work with people and business to teach them the simple ways in which they can reduce their impact on the planet, at home, at work and in the community. The website boasts lots of links to various websites whose background and business beliefs are in line with Planet Ark. Well worth a visit at www.planetark.com.

Australian Conservation Foundation

Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is a national, community-based environmental organisation who is committed to inspiring people to achieve a healthy environment for all Australians. For over 40 years we have been a strong voice for the environment, promoting solutions through research, consultation, education and partnerships. We work with the community, business and government to protect, restore and sustain our environment. ACF campaign to protect, restore and sustain the environment and aim to promote a society which is environmentally aware and responsible. More information and links to other environmentally conscious sites can be found at www.acfonline.org.au.

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

WWF has been in operation for more than 40 years internationally and 25 years in Australia, WWF is the world's largest and most influential conservation organisation. With close to five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries WWF works to conserve biodiversity and provide practical solutions to our greatest environmental threats. The website has many links to their work involving Climate Change, Oceans, Water, Weeds & Pests, Land & Forests, Species, Industry and Corporate sectors. Readers can subscribe to their newsletter, make donations and find out about available voluntary and paid positions within the organisation. For more information please visit www.wwf.org.au

[In Denial - Climate on the Couch, BBC Radio 4, 11 February 2011.](#)

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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