



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #05 - Sunday, 15 May 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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au).

Hello,

*This year HOPE has decided to put a twist on the regular World Environment Day celebrations. We have organised a great "Pathways to Sustainability Expo" to be held on 5 June at the University of Southern Queensland Toowoomba Campus. There will be lots of different activities and exhibitions, so there will be something for the whole family to enjoy. Come and celebrate this great day with us!*

Miriam Sharp, Editor - [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

*"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." by Theodore Roosevelt*

## Update on Upcoming Events

**22 May** [International Day for Biodiversity](#)

**5 June** HOPE's inaugural *Pathways to Sustainability Expo*, University of Southern Queensland, West Street, Toowoomba, 10am - 4pm --- FREE ADMISSION and SHOWBAGS

**19 June** [HOPE General Meeting & afternoon tea, 3pm at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.](#)

## Office news

Where do the weeks go! Why only last week I was still fielding enquiries about our last e:news bulletin (18 Apr) and now Miriam has prepared another edition for your reading pleasure. A big thanks to Miriam and our regular contributors for your efforts - your work is much appreciated.

Office volunteers have been busy hosting 2 Going Solar seminars (21/4 & 28/4); staffing a HOPE information stall at Warwick's *Peace Festival* (1 May); and hosting our third Public Information Forum entitled "*The future of Toowoomba - quarry or clean energy centre?*" A special thanks to Rob McCreath of Friends of Felton for an excellent presentation; and to our additional speaker, Kirsten Kennedy who spoke about the 100% Renewables Campaign and national survey.

Preparations for HOPE's inaugural *Pathways to Sustainability Expo* (Sunday 6 June 2011 at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba) are progressing well. Major aspects of the expo include information displays; demonstrations; workshops; speakers program; trade fair; and Youth Sustainability Roundtable hosted by the Queensland Youth Environment Council (QYEC) and Condamine Alliance. Admission is free and complimentary showbags are available. Bring the whole family and be surprised by what you'll find (and learn)!

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.

## Feature Articles



### **NASAA Certified Organic – Industry Leading Organic Certification**

NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) certifies most food industries throughout the organic produce and supply chain including producers, processors, transportation and storage through to wholesalers, importers, exporters and retailers.

In order to deliver these services, NASAA has developed and implemented its own industry leading, accredited certification standard and continues to be leaders in the promotion and development of Australian Organic Standards. A NASAA Certified Organic product provides assurance to consumers of fresh produce and the confidence that manufactured or packaged products labelled as Certified Organic by NASAA is produced in line with one of the most robust and creditable organic certification systems in the world.

### **International Organic Accreditation – NASAA Certified Organic**

NASAA Certified Organic (NCO) is accredited internationally by the International Organic Accreditation Service, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements Accreditation Program and ISO 65 Accreditation for General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems.

NCO is also accredited by AQIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service) under the Organic Administrative Arrangements and also holds accreditations with IOAS for the Canadian Organic Regime, the EU Regulation, the US Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service for the US National Organic Program and the MAFF in Japan for Japan Agricultural Standard (Organic).

### **NASAA Organic Standard – Internationally Recognised**

The NASAA Organic Standard is the basis of our NASAA AQIS, IFOAM, and EU Programs. It is implemented by all operators licensed to use the NASAA label. The NASAA certification system ensures that organic produce so labelled is genuinely organic and produced without synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, hormones, antibiotics, feed additives etc that affect health of humans, livestock and /or the environment. There are many other materials generally used in conventional agriculture that are prohibited in organic plant and animal production.

The strength of the NASAA system is that it is a voluntary, licensed operator-managed compliance to publicly documented, internationally recognised Organic Standards backed up by regular on-site verification. The system is augmented by a program of surveillance activities including unannounced inspections, market surveillance and investigation of complaints. If you're looking to guarantee the integrity, accessibility, quality and appeal of your organic product across national and international markets, Think Organic, Think Certification, Think NASAA!

### **NASAA Certified Organic**

PO Box 768, Stirling, SA 5152

Tel: (08) 8370 8455, Fax: (08) 8370 8381

Email: [enquiries@nasaa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nasaa.com.au) , Web: [www.nasaa.com.au](http://www.nasaa.com.au)

*"A holistic view of environmental, social and economic well-being is indeed the only route to truly sustainable development." by Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, UN Deputy Secretary-General*

## Introducing the Biological Farmers of Australia



The [Biological Farmers of Australia \(BFA\)](#) is the voice of Australian organics, consisting of several teams which interact to maintain and promote the requirements for 'certified organic' as set out in the Australian Organic Standard as well as representing the interests of its members and actively benefiting the organic industry.

[Australian Certified Organic \(ACO\)](#) provides a guarantee of food you can trust - look for the Bud logo on products available at supermarkets, independent retailers and markets. ACO is part of the wider BFA Group and is Australia's premier certifier, and licensor of organic and biodynamic operators in Australia. ACO certification covers producers, processors, retailers and restaurants. ACO is winner of a CHOICE Award for Best Food Endorsement Program in 2010 for integrity, recognition and trust.

[OGA Certified Ltd \(OGA\)](#) is an organic certification program designed specifically for the small producer (income less than \$75K) and is prominent amongst producers who sell their produce at markets. Look for the Sunflower logo for your guarantee of organic integrity! OGA Ltd is part of the wider BFA Group and was originally known as Organic Growers of Australia, a group established over 20 years ago in the Northern Rivers district of NSW.

### **Organics is about health management and disease prevention - with no synthetic chemicals**

Organic and biodynamic farming means farming in a way which cares for the environment, without relying upon synthetic chemicals and other unnatural interventionist approaches to farming and food production. Hence, organic food comes from organic farms utilising the best of both traditional agriculture and modern techniques, using nature and natural processes as its bedrock for producing foods and fibres. Rather than using synthetic pesticides to kill pests, farmers prevent pests by planting a diverse range of crops, by rotations, using natural biological and environment friendly inputs, and conserving natural ecosystems. This means no artificial pesticides, no synthetic herbicides, no hormones and no growth promotants which otherwise have a questionable place in our aim to maintain healthy bodies as well as healthy farms.

The same logic of natural and preventative health management (rather than reactive disease management) is applied to GMOs or Genetically Modified Organisms which the organic industry prohibits from use in production of organic foods. With many safe and proven forms of farming already available, the organic farmer believes it is important to allow Mother Nature to provide us food the way nature intended. Also the organic industry believes that not enough is understood about GMOs, and while there also is a sceptical marketplace of consumers regarding this technology in the food industry, the organic industry believes it is best to be precautionary in its approach to such new, untested, and at this point yet to be established as necessary technologies.

### **How to find Certified Organic produce and products when shopping**

- On the produce/product, look for the words 'certified organic', and logo of a certifying body such as the Australian Certified Organic 'Bud' logo.

- At farmers markets, certified organic growers will display a certification certificate or other proof of their certification. Look for a logo such as the ACO Bud logo or OGA Sunflower logo on grower certificates and produce.

#### What are some of the produce and products that can be certified organic?

- |                              |                   |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Fruit, nuts and vegetables | • Cereals         | • Baby foods                        |
| • Honey and jams             | • Coffee and teas | • Shampoos and soaps                |
| • Breads                     | • Chocolate       | • Cosmetics                         |
| • Eggs                       | • Wines and beers | • Cleaning products                 |
| • Meats                      | • Juices          | • Animal feeds                      |
| • Flour                      | • Rice and pastas | • Materials such as cotton and wool |
| • Sugar                      | • Chips           |                                     |
|                              | • Dairy products  |                                     |

## General

### AlertNet Climate - Thomson Reuters Foundation and COMplus daily news website

AlertNet Climate, a news website of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and COMplus, the sustainable development communications alliance, takes a daily front-line look at the development and humanitarian impacts of climate change. Please take a look at this month's top climate stories from AlertNet Climate (<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/climate-change>), the Thomson Reuters Foundation's daily news website on the human impacts of climate change.

If you'd like to see them more quickly you can follow us on Twitter at @alertnetclimate or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/alertnetclimate>, or sign up for our weekly mailing by emailing [laurie.goering@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:laurie.goering@thomsonreuters.com) All these stories also are available to put on your own website via our RSS feed: <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/feeds/news.dot?type=news&subtopic=climate-change&source=alertnet>

### Buying solar panels - Not sure how to decide?

The following organisations provide guidance to consumers on buying photovoltaic solar panels for grid-connected solar energy:

- [Clean Energy Council](#)
- Alternative Technology Association  
<http://www.ata.org.au/wp-content/publications/solar-electricity-plan-your-own-electricity-system/>  
<http://www.ata.org.au/news/pay-back-time-for-solar-pv-systems-in-australia/>  
<http://www.ata.org.au/sustainability/generating-power/>
- [CHOICE](#)

### [First Earth Charter Youth e-Conference successfully held in April](#)

The first Earth Charter Youth e-Conference was successfully held on April 14th, 2011, on Heart in Action on line platform, with almost 80 international participants.

*"It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change., by Charles Darwin*

## Queensland News

### [The Institute of Climate Emergency - ICE](#)

ICE, the Institute of Climate Emergency is a Gecko Initiative to instigate discussion on the seriousness of climate change. ICE is seeking public interest in developing the institute and welcomes any ideas or contributions to expand its range of influence.

### [Queensland Landcare Conference](#), Ayr, 20 - 23 September 2011

The theme of the conference is generations of guardians. As well as hearing from keynote speaker, Dr Linda Selvey, CEO Greenpeace Australia Pacific about the future of Australia's food security, delegates will also have the opportunity to choose from more than 31 concurrent presentations. Cost: Early bird registration \$380. For further information, visit [www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm](http://www.landcare.org.au/CONFERENCE.htm) or contact Event Manager, Wombat Creative on 07 5538 5109.

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## National News

### [National Water Commission calls for a rethink on urban water pricing](#)

The National Water Commission has released four reports that look at water pricing options and opportunities for greater competition. For further information see the [Media Release](#) and the reports [Reviews of pricing reform](#), [Externality pricing](#), [Competition in the urban water sector](#), and [Scarcity pricing in urban areas](#). The reports are part of a suite of work undertaken by the Commission to support its keystone report [Urban water in Australia: future directions](#).

### [Biodiversity and urban design](#)

The Griffith University Environmental Futures Centre Fact Sheet [Biodiversity and urban design: birds, 'burbs and Brisbane's bushland](#) provides information on Brisbane's significance as a "hotspot" for bird biodiversity, the impacts of urbanisation, and approaches to sustain the city's bushland-dependent bird diversity.

The **Alternative Technology Association (ATA)** *Your Home* Technical Manual is a compendium with 340 pages of environmentally sustainable solutions for designing and building a home. For people who are building, buying or renovating, it shows how to make a more comfortable home that has less impact on the environment - one that will also be more economical, healthier to live in and adaptable to changing needs. Copies of the [updated 4th Edition of the Your Home Technical Manual](#) are now available.

### [Moving on: Relocating species in response to climate change](#)

Global warming is not just threatening biodiversity - it is challenging the way scientists think about conservation. How can a species be preserved *in situ* if its habitat may disappear under climate change? Managed relocation may preserve some species for the future, but its success will rely on good science and a sound risk assessment.

### [Growing a green fuel industry in Australia](#)

Can Australia grow an economically and environmentally-sustainable biofuels industry on waste biomass? Joely Taylor investigates.

#### **Office Hours**

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time; or at other times by appointment.

## World News

### **Monsanto will soon be allowed to police itself.**

No good that can possibly come of an experiment where the company behind nearly every genetically modified crop in our daily diets is allowed to decide whether its products are causing any environmental harm.

<http://www.fastcompany.com/1749695/monsanto-now-allowed-to-police-itself>

### **World Wildlife Federation turns 50!**

A summit of environmental leaders and politicians has called for an urgent move towards a global green economy in order to achieve sustainable development over the next half century. Low-carbon technology, green infrastructures, investment in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture were all listed as being essential in combating climate change, poverty and water shortages. Speaking at the event today, convened by WWF to mark the global conservation organisation's 50th anniversary, EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potocnik said that unless biodiversity is adequately protected the consequences would be "catastrophic". "Biodiversity and ecosystem services must be protected, valued and adequately restored," said Commissioner Potocnik. "It's essential for human wellbeing and in our own self-interest. If we do not preserve ecosystems we will push biodiversity over the tipping point beyond which changes become irreversible and possibly even catastrophic. It is an irrefutable fact that global consumption and use of resources is the biggest factor in a sustainable future."

<http://www.enn.com/wildlife/article/42642>

The International Labour Office - Bureau for Workers' Activities (ILO-ACTRAV) has just published a special issue of its journal dedicated to Climate Change, Employment and the need for a Just Transition. All the research papers are available in the International Journal of Labour Research 2010, Vol. 2, Issue 2: [http://www.ilo.org/actrav/what/pubs/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_153352/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/actrav/what/pubs/lang--en/docName--WCMS_153352/index.htm)

**Research articles published by ILO-ACTRAV** on Climate Change and Employment and the need for a Just Transition are now available. An ITUC article introduces the origins, definition and potential of the concept of Just Transition and explores the links between climate change and employment. Other articles explore issues such as Climate change, poverty and migration processes in Chiapas, Mexico; the greening of the offshore energy sector in the North Sea, among others. The UNFCCC secretariat has produced 12 audio files to help spread the word about the joint implementation.

The audio files explain in plain language which countries can participate, what are the Emission Reduction Units, what methodologies can be used, as well as which is the role of the UNFCCC secretariat, Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee, Designated Focal Points and Accredited Independent Entities. They also provide further details about the project cycle and advice on what to do if you have an idea for a project. Please visit the link below:

<<http://ji.unfccc.int/about/multimedia/podcasts/index.html>>

These audio files are in the public domain. Their use, including embedding and reproduction, is highly encouraged.

### **Renewables major part of 2050 world energy mix: UN**

Renewable power from the Sun, wind, water and biomass can and should generate a major portion of the planet's energy supply by 2050, according to a draft United Nations report obtained by AFP.

### **Top Ten Tips for Eco-Tourists**

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has released a list of top ten tips for tourists who want to visit some of the most beautiful natural sites in the world without damaging the environment.

### [Release of America's Climate Choices Final Report](#)

The National Research Council has released the [final report](#) of America's Climate Choices. The report finds that the significant risks that climate change poses to human society and the environment provide a strong motivation to move ahead with substantial response efforts. Current efforts of local, state, and private sector actors are important, but not likely to yield progress comparable to what could be achieved with the addition of strong federal policies that establish coherent national goals and incentives, and that promote strong U.S. engagement in international-level response efforts. The inherent complexities and uncertainties of climate change are best met by applying an iterative risk management framework and making efforts to: significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; prepare for adapting to impacts; invest in scientific research, technology development, and information systems; and facilitate engagement between scientific and technical experts and the many types of stakeholders making America's climate choices. [Press Release](#) and [Report in Brief](#) (pdf).

### [Renewable energy the future: UN](#)

GLOBAL energy generated by renewables could increase up to 10 times on current levels by mid-century, a landmark study by a United Nations climate change body has found.

### [Japan to boost renewable energy](#)

JAPAN will scrap a plan to obtain half of its electricity from nuclear power and will instead promote renewable energy as a result of its ongoing nuclear crisis, the prime minister says.

### [Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation: The Need and Role of Civil Society Organisations](#)

The author argues that countries' adaptation plans are largely state driven and top-down in approach, while climate change is locally experienced and can only be effectively addressed by engaging local groups and institutions. He contends that all adaptation is local, and that local agencies, especially civil society organisations (CSOs), being closest to the problem, are best suited to creating adaptive capacities within communities. He then describes different areas in which CSOs can help communities adapt to climate change, before concluding with proposed next steps for countries towards a multi-tier, multi-stakeholder institutional framework for adaptive action.

### [Towards baseload solar thermal power](#)

Spain's latest large-scale commercial concentrating solar thermal plants have advanced the generation of solar energy around the clock by using thermal storage. Meanwhile, research continues on the role that concentrating solar thermal plants can play as baseload power support technology under different scenarios.

### [A fresh look at sustainability reporting: GRI's Featured Reports](#)

The Featured Reports section of GRI's website showcases GRI sustainability reports from around the world, providing a unique opportunity to read about different sustainability initiatives and performance presented through GRI reporting.

### **Humanity can and must do more with less: UNEP**

By 2050, humanity could consume an estimated 140 billion tons of minerals, ores, fossil fuels and biomass per year -- three times its current appetite -- unless the economic growth rate is "decoupled" from the rate of natural resource consumption, warns a new report from the United Nations Environment Programme. Citizens of developed countries consume an average of 16 tons (ranging up to 40 or more tons) of those four key resources per capita. By comparison, the average person in India today consumes four tons per year.

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-05/udot-hca050611.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-05/udot-hca050611.php)

## Resources

### Book reviews

#### [Climate Change Denial - Heads in the Sand by Haydn Washington and John Cook](#)

This book examines the principle climate change denial arguments, and summarises what the peer reviewed scientific literature says on each argument. It also explains the social science behind climate change denial. This book is for scientists, policymakers, communicators, students, activists and anyone who wants to arm themselves with the facts about climate change.

#### [Environmental Management in Organizations - Edited by John Brady, Alison Ebbage and Ruth Lunn](#)

This new edition of Environmental Management in Organizations provides all the management tools, performance measures and communication strategies that organizations need to manage their environmental responsibilities effectively. Leading experts on each topic provide focused explanations and clear practical guidance, as well as setting out the context and the key environmental and management drivers.

#### [Children and their urban environment](#)

Looks at the key activities, spaces and experiences children have and how these can be managed to ensure that children benefit from change.

[The Big Thirst - The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water](#) takes readers on a journey - from the wet moons of Saturn to the water-obsessed hotels of Las Vegas, where dolphins swim in the desert, and from a rice farm in the parched Australian outback to a high-tech IBM plant that makes an exotic breed of pure water found nowhere in nature - showing that we've already left behind a century-long golden age when water was thoughtlessly abundant, free, and safe and entered a new era of high-stakes water. But as dramatic as the challenges are, the deeper truth *The Big Thirst* reveals is that there is no good reason for us to be overtaken by a global water crisis. We have more than enough water. We just don't think about it, or use it, smartly.

*Remember, you CAN make a difference!*

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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