



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #07 --- 29 August 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.

Hello all,

National Landcare Week is coming up in September and to bring you up to date with what Landcare is all about we have dedicated a 'feature articles' section to this subject. The other feature article talks about how sustainability education can be delivered in schools via an 'Earth Science Program'. The rest of the bulletin is filled with news about what's been happening around the country and the world, and with resources for you to tap into for further information on a variety of 'green' subjects. I think the new CSIRO website showing you greenhouse gas levels is particularly interesting. Enjoy reading!

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

Upcoming HOPE Activities

10 Sept - HOPE Ordinary Meeting, 10am sharp at 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

- *All are welcome to attend. Morning tea provided. Please BYO chair.*

11 Sept - Westfalen Parklands Environmental Expo, Ipswich - HOPE info display

17 Sept - Carnival of Flowers, St Luke's church, Toowoomba - HOPE info display

- ➔ **Offers of assistance with transporting equipment & materials to and from event site; setup; staffing displays and pickup are most welcome! Please contact the office on ph 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to register your availability.**

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.

Update on Upcoming Events

September [National Biodiversity Month](#) is held each year and aims to promote the importance of protecting, conserving and improving biodiversity both within Australia and across the world.

Biodiversity encompasses every living thing that exists on our planet and the environment in which they live. Australia is home to between 600,000 and 700,000 species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. About 84 per cent of our plants, 83 per cent of our mammals, and 45 per cent of our birds are endemic – that is, they are only found in Australia.

1 Sept [National Wattle Day](#)

5-11 Sept [National Landcare Week](#) is an awareness campaign for landcare and coastcare groups, farmers embracing sustainable farm management, 'friends of' groups, bushcare, rivercare, dunecare, Junior Landcare and any volunteer group that manages environmental issues at a local level. The purpose of the campaign is to assist groups in the landcare movement around Australia build capacity, create awareness in their community and encourage participation by attracting volunteers.

7 Sept [National Threatened Species Day](#)

11 Sept [Sustainable House Day](#) is celebrating its 10th year, and the event will continue to showcase some of Australia's most sustainable homes to the public as millions of Australians continue to embrace renewable energy, recycling, and other practices suitable to their lifestyles.

11 Sept [National Bilby Day](#)

16 Sept [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

16-18 Sept [Clean Up the World Weekend](#) is a community based environmental campaign that inspires and empowers communities from every corner of the globe to clean up, fix up and conserve their environment. Now in its 19th year, Clean Up the World, held in conjunction with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), mobilises an estimated 35 million volunteers from 130 countries annually, making it one of the largest community-based environmental campaigns in the world.

18 Sept [World Water Monitoring Day](#) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. In 2010, over 200,000 people in 85 countries monitored their local waterways.

20-23 Sept 2011 Qld Landcare Conference - Ayr (*see article on page 6*)

22 Sept [World Car-Free Day](#) (WCD) people from around the world get together in the streets, intersections, and neighbourhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society.

26-29 Sept [14th International Riversymposium, Brisbane](#)

Attended by leading scientists, community groups, government agencies and corporate leaders from over 25 nations, the [14th International River Symposium](#) will explore the multiple reasons that rivers are valuable ranging from economics through to cultural and spiritual values. This year's program will have a strong focus on the management and recovery of our rivers and waterways, in accordance with the overall theme, *The Value of Rivers*.

Office News

The HOPE management committee and a good number of volunteers have been very busy over the past month working on a variety of projects, events and activities to help spread the message of living more sustainably. A big thanks to all who have helped with staffing information displays; and preparing articles, etc. for our e:news bulletins and website. A special thanks to Nigel Kimball of Yarramine Environmental for assisting with a funding application for federal operating funding.

Highlights of office activities are:

- 24-28 June Internet/email services offline for a few days. Contacted Telstra to find that problem was not with the modem, but a faulty ADSL port at the exchange. Problem rectified on 28 June. Thanks Telstra.
- 2-3. July Installed new hard drive, Windows 7, Office 2010 Home, Publisher 2010, Nero, Firefox 5, Picasa 3.8, Avast Antivirus, VLC media player and Adobe reader 9. A big thanks to David Shipp who spent a day and a half installing the hardware and software; and making sure that everything was working okay. I'm particularly pleased that David was able to import our large email address book and all of the email folders.
- 12 July Acquitted TRC events grant re PtoS Expo. Will ask for an electronic copy of the acquittal form next time so as to hide *hand-written* mistakes!!
- Reviewed and prioritised 'wish list' of projects requiring funding (15 July)
- 16-17 July Completed resetting the email distribution lists, although we still need to do more work to separate business contacts (i.e. commercial, government, media, etc.) from HOPE members (active with voting rights) and supporters (passive without voting rights). Nigel Kimball has offered to help prepare a "surveymonkey" form for this exercise.
- Pathway to Sustainability Expo
 - preliminary discussions held with *mecu* credit union (19 July) regarding naming rights sponsorship for 2012 event; and
 - a formal partnership letter sent to University of Southern Queensland (23 Aug) requesting
 - participation by key faculties and sections;
 - access to venues such as the quadrangle, the Refectory dining hall and lecture rooms;
 - on-site security for participant stall-holders and the general public; and
 - promotion of the event via global email broadcasts to staff and students.
- 26 July - Submitted GVESHO 'operating' funding application
- 29 July - Talk given to St. Ursula's secondary college Eco Justice Group
- HOPE information displays held:
 - 31 July - National Tree Planting Day, Peacehaven Park - Highfields
 - 9 Aug - SQIT (Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE) Open Day - Toowoomba
 - 14 Aug - Toowoomba Languages & Cultural Festival, Queens Park - Toowoomba
 - A special thanks to Elizabeth Jones, the TLCF event organiser, for distributing our leftover PtoS Expo showbags.
 - 24 Aug - Seniors Information Expo, Toowoomba
 - 25 Aug - Going Solar seminar with Excel Solar, Groom Park Hall - Toowoomba

Notice for volunteers

Lots of work has been farmed out over recent months and I must admit that I've lost track of who's got what and how everyone is progressing with their respective assignments.

I would appreciate receiving some feedback from you on the tasks that you are currently undertaking, those you still have to do and the tasks that you are no longer able to do or wish to do.

Please forward your report to office@hopeaustralia.org.au at your earliest convenience.

Any tasks not actioned will be reassessed and either reallocated or trashed!

New project suggestion

An opportunity exists for HOPE to stage a one day *Youth Leadership for Sustainability* forum as part of National Youth Week 2012. Aspects of the forum could include showcasing school-based environmental projects; training through a series of workshops; networking opportunities; information displays and perhaps a speakers program. Potential partners/supporters of the forum include Alexandra Kennedy, Condamine Alliance (CA) (J); Chris Leslight, Department of Environment & Resource Management (DERM) (J); Ali van der Graaf, Queensland Youth Environment Council (QYEC); Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC); and Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC).

Funding applications are due by 3 October 2011.

What do you think of this event proposal? Should we submit an application - Y/N? And, is anyone available to assist with preparing the funding submission; and/or interested in helping to organise the event?

HOPE Ordinary Meeting, Saturday 10 September

Our next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, 10 September 2011. The agenda includes a review of the past 3 months of activities, committee reports and recommendations for future projects, events and activities. If you wish to add an item or two to the agenda, please submit your items by 31 August. The agenda will then be circulated by email to all members and supporters.

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, email office@hopeaustralia.org.au

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.

Feature Articles on Landcare

About Landcare

Landcare is a community based volunteer movement made up of individuals and groups who work on managing environmental issues in their local areas. The movement began nationally in 1989 through initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity through sustainable land management. Landcare has since evolved to encompass a broader focus on the sustainable management of all of Australia's natural resources and now includes projects across the whole country from coastal to urban and remote areas of Australia.

Landcare groups are established when a group of local people identify a problem in their local environment and work together on a practical solution. The groups that come under the Landcare umbrella work on a diverse range of environmental projects and fall under a wide range of names including Rivercare, Bushcare, Coastcare, Friends of, and Dunecare. Landcare also includes farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities.

What do Landcare groups do?

repair urban creeks and bushland, remove and control weeds and feral animals, litter removal, plant native trees, shrubs and grasses, re-vegetate land affected by salinity and erosion, connect green corridors in urban areas to bring back biodiversity, monitor water quality in our rivers and streams, wildlife rescue, rehabilitate wetlands, assist land owners to adapt to climate change with long term planning for farms and their properties, share Indigenous land management knowledge, rehabilitate overgrazed pastures, respond to natural disasters, educate our community including children about conservation of their landscape and many other natural resource management activities.

For further information on the Landcare movement, please visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Landcare Australia Limited

Landcare Australia Limited is a non-political, uniquely Australian partnership between the community, government and business to protect and repair Australia's magnificent, yet stressed, natural resources. Landcare Australia is the official not-for-profit organisation directly responsible for the promotion and marketing of the inspiring landcare volunteer network as well as corporate engagement with the movement. A primary focus is to raise awareness of Landcare through promotional activities and national campaigns including Landcare Week and the Landcare Awards.

The Landcare movement is made up of approximately 4,000 Landcare and 2,000 Coastcare volunteer groups that work on environmental projects in their local communities. The groups that fall under the Landcare umbrella are varied in nature and don't necessarily include Landcare in their names, including Productive farming groups, 'Friends of', Bushcare, Coastcare, Rivercare, and Dunecare. Landcare also include farmers embracing sustainable farm management and any community group that partakes in volunteer environmental activities.

Over the last 20 years Landcare Australia has developed a niche for brokering partnerships that balance the needs and concerns of corporate, government and community stakeholders to assist local environmental and agricultural repair projects. Millions of dollars' worth of funding and in-kind support is distributed to the landcare community and farmers each year. Landcare Australia's agenda is to expand promotional and financial support of the landcare movement to continue evolving its primary role in community natural resource management. For further information on Landcare Australia and the Landcare movement, please visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Junior Landcare

Junior Landcare is an initiative of Landcare Australia designed to encourage young people to learn about sustainability and play an active role in ensuring the safe future of their environment.

Launched in May 1998, Junior Landcare recognises that the contribution of young people is vital if the land they are to inherit is to be in the best possible condition for them and future generations.

Through the Junior Landcare program, Landcare Australia facilitates a number of corporate-funded programs for schools and youth groups across Australia to enable them to implement environmental projects in their schools or local communities and to connect with their local Landcare groups.

Landcare activities can also be successfully integrated into the school curriculum and provide a great framework for learning in outdoor 'living classrooms'. Junior Landcare enables kids to become involved with the Landcare community at a young age through hands on involvement working on local environment projects. For further information on Junior Landcare, please visit

www.juniorlandcare.com.au

Coastcare

Established by the Australian Government in 1995, Coastcare is a community of volunteers who work to care for and protect the Australian coastline. Coastcare groups are established when a group of local people identify a problem in their local coastal environment and work towards a practical solution. The work done by these groups of dedicated volunteers is invaluable to restoration and protection of the fragile coastline of our country.

What do Coastcare groups do?

clean up beaches and underwater environments, manage dune erosion, restore native plants and animal habitat; remove and control invasive weeds, monitor water quality of waterways and reefs, re-vegetate mangrove areas and coastal mudflats, rehabilitate wetlands, marine life rescue, use Indigenous knowledge to manage coastlines, monitor changes to marine species and their environments, respond to natural disasters, storm water pollution, control of human access to sensitive areas, educate our community including children about conservation of their coastal landscape and many other natural resource management activities. For further information on Coastcare, please visit

www.coastcare.com.au

2011 Queensland Landcare Conference, 20-23 September - Ayr

Hundreds of landcarers descend on the Burdekin

The 2011 Queensland Landcare Conference takes place from 20 - 23 September in Ayr, just one hour south of Townsville. With the theme *Generations of Guardians*, the conference will cover a range of topics which invigorate, stimulate and motivate landcarers to continue working towards sustainable land management. With keynote presentations from Dr Linda Selvey, CEO Greenpeace Australia Pacific and Dr John Williams, NSW Commissioner for Natural Resources and an opening address by Her Excellency, Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, the event is expected to attract around 250 delegates. 60 speakers feature on the program, covering topics as broad as carbon in the landscape, community engagement, Indigenous cultural heritage and engagement, landcare and catchment group case studies, responding to natural disasters and even a boot camp for landcare volunteers wanting to refresh their group development skills.

Registration is only \$420 for community groups (before 1 September) and includes attendance at all sessions, a full day field trip, free shuttle buses to and from Townsville airport and three evening social events. You'd be mad to miss this grass-roots event specifically designed for landcarers.

For more information contact Samantha Morris, Wombat Creative on 0421 709 519 or

landcare2011@wombatcreative.com.au.

Feature Articles on Education

Earth Smart Schools - Sustainability Education in Action

Earth Smart Science is a three year initiative by Education Queensland which supports state primary, P10 and P12 schools to become more sustainable in their policies and practices. The program is delivered by Earth Smart Science facilitators mostly based in Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres throughout the state. The facilitators work closely with school communities to develop strategies to reduce the school ecological footprint through the development and implementation of School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs). The implementation and monitoring of a SEMP encourages a whole of school approach to wisely managing resources, and focuses on waste minimisation, water conservation, energy efficiency and biodiversity improvements.

The key to the Earth Smart Science program is to foster knowledge of and commitment to environmental sustainability through integration of the SEMP process into the curriculum with a particular focus on science and mathematics. Teachers in Earth Smart schools attend professional development workshops to increase knowledge and skills in teaching in outdoor environments and collecting baseline data in the four focus areas of the SEMP.

This is successfully achieved through working closely with a variety of education service providers and experts in the field; and Science Spark teachers who are currently working with state primary school teachers to enhance the teaching of science. A wonderful local example of this is the River Science Skills for Educators program which is a joint initiative between Gympie Science Spark teachers Zela Bissett and Don Reid and the staff of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. The River Science Skills sessions are being delivered by MRCCC staff and include the topics of macro invertebrates, endangered species, water quality testing and riparian restoration; and are designed to give teachers skills to deliver these topics as part of their own teaching. Zela has also worked with teachers to write the "Marvelous Mary River" unit which is currently being taught in year 5 at the Mary Valley State College and in years 4/5 at Gympie South State School.

As a result of the increased teaching of sustainability topics in the classroom and the inclusion of sustainability as a cross-curricula priority in the new Australian Curriculum, students in Earth Smart schools become involved in hands on learning about the environment and play a significant role in the implementation of the SEMP strategies and actions.

Examples of energy smart strategies being undertaken in schools include auditing energy use through the use of meters and the Solar Schools website, developing school energy policies, putting up signage to remind everyone to switch off appliances when not in use and developing energy wise checklists for classrooms.

Biodiversity initiatives include removal of exotic and invasive species, revegetation projects, development of bush tucker gardens and care of wetlands areas.

Water smart strategies to reduce water consumption include conducting water audits, retrofitting old plumbing devices, placing waterwise signage around the school and promoting waterwise awareness and behaviours.

Waste smart initiatives focus on reducing the amount of packaging coming into the schools and improving recycling within the school. A popular strategy at the moment is the introduction of "litter free lunches" which aim to reduce packaging in lunchboxes and therefore waste overall. This is complemented by increasing numbers of schools composting organic waste on site and using the compost to improve soil quality in garden areas of the school.

At the September 13 meeting of the MRCCC students from a Gympie Earth Smart Science school will be the guest speakers and give a presentation on being Earth Smart at their school.

Prepared by Sue Gibson (Earth Smart Science Facilitator - Barambah Environmental Education Centre 4168 8190 or sgibs50@eq.edu.au)

General

What is renewable energy?

Today, around 90 per cent of electricity generated in Australia is still generated from the burning of fossil fuels. But what are your options? The alternative to brown coal generated electricity is renewable energy.

Towns in transition

As world discussion turns to peak oil, towns and regions across the world are taking it upon themselves to prepare for the occurrence. Welcome to the phenomenon of the Transition Town.

Low-Carbon Cities of the Future: Resilient Cities

Well known blogger and CEO of CO IMPACT, a carbon origination company, Boyd Cohen has recently posted Low Carbon Cities of the Future on the Triple Pundit website. In this he states that cities are at the front line for adapting to climate change. Estimates are that 80% of total GHG emissions come from cities and its residents. Cities which embrace the low-carbon economy and that seek to mitigate and adapt to climate change are now known as resilient cities.

How Do You Get Children To Eat Their Greens? Let Them Grow Their Own!

The home organic gardening boom is moving into the early education sector, with young children in hundreds of Goodstart Childcare centers set to find out if they have green fingers.

Solar skylight takes the heat off

A skylight that generates solar energy and lights rooms at the same time could be a boon for commercial buildings and airports.

Coal seam gas a risk to food security

US farmers talk over the failures of GM crops

Watch the short "Farmer to Farmer: The Truth about GM Crops" video here:

<http://gmcropsfarmentofarmer.com/film.html>

Lightbulbs a \$20 billion climate solution, summit told

Australia could save itself seven coal fired power stations and \$20 billion by simply moving towards eco-friendly lights in business, homes and street lighting, the Asia Pacific Cities Summit was told this morning.

Canberra carbon footprint in top 50

IF it were a corporation, the federal government would rank well within the nation's top 50 greenhouse gas emitters.

Why Grow Your Own Food?

Have you ever stopped to consider **who grows the food you eat?** If it's *not* you, it's likely your food is grown by market gardeners and conventional (chemical) farmers ... Consider some of these sobering facts from *The Australian Fruit & Vegetable Garden* book by co-author Clive Blazey:

- **Nutritional quality suffers** because fruits are picked when they are unripe to extend their supermarket shelf-life (almost all berries are harvested *before* their sugars, vitamins and antioxidants develop);
- Fruit is now **sprayed with anti-ripening chemicals**;
- The **quality of food diminishes proportionally** to the time and distance from harvest (**food miles**);
- Orchardists make more profit by pumping apples, grapes and tomatoes so full of water to boost weight that **flavour, nutrition and antioxidant levels are almost negligible**;
- Without exception, **the best-tasting and most nutritious fruit and vegetables never reach our food markets**;
- The globalisation of our food supply has unexpectedly destabilised the climate we *need* to grow our food.

Disturbing research has revealed just how chemically contaminated *conventionally grown* produce can be - grab your copy of the [2011 Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce](#), a purse or wallet-sized guide outlining which conventionally-grown fresh foods are the *most* (Dirty Dozen) and *least* (Clean 15) contaminated by pesticides. This handy tool helps you decide which produce is most important to buy organic. A [study](#) shows that **changing to an organic diet does in fact significantly decrease pesticide exposure**. For more benefits, check out [20 Reasons to Eat Organic](#).

Aren't these all good reasons why we should be growing *at least some* of our own food?

Just a few of the benefits of homegrown produce are it:

- ⤴ is cheaper and tastes better
- ⤴ hasn't been grown with chemicals hazardous to your health
- ⤴ provides you with seeds for your next crop so saves you money
- ⤴ lasts longer because it's fresher
- ⤴ doesn't cost you any food miles to get it; and
- ⤴ is higher in nutrients.

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Queensland News

Condamine Alliance Launches Exciting New Project

Queensland will soon have a sustainability project so large it will join the pyramids of Giza as one of the only manmade objects visible from the International Space Station thanks to Condamine Alliance. Called 'Treehenge', the project will see thousands of massive trees lined up to form a unique design in the Condamine River Basin and lead to several other plantations of its type across the country. Treehenge will not only help revive the land and endangered animal populations in one of the nation's major food bowls but also be a unique place of commemoration. Find out more [here](#).

Youth Connect on Environment

In June in Toowoomba, Condamine Alliance and the Queensland Youth Environment Council partnered to host a very successful event. The Youth Sustainability Roundtable brought together students from five high school environment clubs from the Darling Downs for World Environment Day activities at HOPE's Pathways to Sustainability Expo, held at the University of Southern Queensland. The students participated in activities to learn more about leading and managing environment clubs and designing projects and events that will inspire their peers to adopt sustainable behaviours. The Queensland Youth Environment Councilors helped the students conduct a review of their environment club, showed them strategies to develop projects and led them through an online carbon calculator tool especially designed for schools, Eco-tude. Read more [here](#).

Green curriculum for schools

Help is at hand for primary school teachers to introduce sustainability concepts to students and into the school grounds thanks to NQ Dry Tropics Healthy Habitat for Schools program.

The program provides a free online tool kit available to all schools covering topics such as planting cyclone-resistant native trees, avoiding dangerous plants, declared weeds, companion planting for school vegetable gardens and ideas for student activities.

NQ Dry Tropics' Laura Dunstan said the program was designed to get the whole school involved, from teachers, grounds persons, parents and carers to students in every year level.

"There are free online resources, professional development workshops and curriculum-based classroom activities. It really fills the needs that schools have at the moment to reach their biodiversity goals."

For further information about Healthy Habitat for Schools contact Laura Dunstan on 4722 5732 or visit the NQ Dry Tropics' [Healthy Habitat for Schools website](#) .

Sustainability resources

The Queensland Sustainable School Website Education Centre is now live. An array of resources for water, energy and biodiversity are included. Perfect for Earth Smart Science schools. Visit

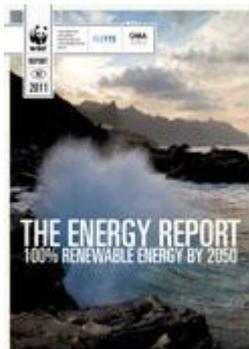
www.sustainableschools.qld.edu.au/Default.aspx?tabid=576

Free Inland Water Cycle poster

The poster depicts Queensland's inland water system, including the extensive groundwater aquifers and is accompanied by a guideline for use outlining background information. The poster is available free to Queensland councils and schools and can be ordered on-line at www.derm.qld.gov.au/waterwise/water_cycle_order_form.php. The poster and guideline can also be downloaded from the DERM website www.derm.qld.gov.au/waterwise/councils_program/water_cycle_poster.html

National News

WWF Releases "The Energy Report"



Australia has the potential to produce some of the world's cheapest renewable energy, meeting all its energy demands by 2050, in line with the release today of a major new study by WWF. [The Energy Report](#), which breaks new ground with its global study of total energy needs, including transport and energy availability, found that the world's entire energy needs could be filled cleanly, renewably and economically within just 40 years. An additional [Australia-specific brief](#), prepared by Climate Risk for WWF-Australia, shows there are enough clean resources to meet 100% of the nation's energy needs if efficiency measures across the economy cut projected demand by 24%. Read the full report here: [Australia could lead with world's cheapest renewable energy](#).

[Landshare Australia](#)

Landshare Australia brings together people who have a passion for home-grown food, connecting those who have land to share with those who need land for cultivating food. The concept of Landshare began in the UK, launched through the River Cottage television program in 2009, and has since grown into a thriving community of more than 57,000 growers, sharers and helpers across the country. Landshare is now in Australia and welcomes you to come and take part.

Landshare is for people who:

- Want to grow vegetables but don't have anywhere to do it
- Have a spare bit of land they're prepared to share
- Can help in some way - from sharing knowledge and lending tools to helping out on the plot itself
- Support the idea of freeing up more land for growing
- Are already growing and want to join in the community

To find out more visit [About Landshare](#).

Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)

Because of the wide-spread rainfall across Australia and the recent flooding events there is great concern that an explosion of weed growth and weed spread will occur. That concern is due to the wetter conditions across Australia, the spread of weed seeds in flood waters; the potential for seed transfer in hay, grains and other animal fodder; and the potential for weed spread due to earth-moving machinery being transported around for flood restoration works.

Please also be alert for 'new incursions', weeds that may not have been seen in your location. The Weeds of National Significance Program is a national program that focuses on 20 weeds selected and agreed because of their impact on production, human health, and the environment.

The WoNS Program information will help people identify weeds and provide options for control, containment and management actions. The WoNS Program has National Coordinators for each of the 20 weeds. The WoNS coordinators are based and housed within state agencies except WA.

To find the details of the 20 Weeds of National Significance, contact details for the WoNS coordinators and information on available resources go to: www.weeds.gov.au/contacts/wons and www.weeds.org.au/wons

World News

[In the News: Latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species released](#)

The latest update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species shows that a staggering 19,265 species are currently threatened with extinction. Over 900 new species have been classified as threatened — that is, considered to be Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable — since the last update in 2010, showing that there is no letup in the extinction crisis threatening the world's biodiversity. Although more species are thought to be threatened than ever before, the IUCN are keen to highlight that there have also been major conservation success stories.

[One Million Households Powered by Solar Energy - in Bangladesh](#)

The number of households powered by solar energy in Bangladesh has passed the one million mark — the fastest expansion of solar power in the world, according to Bangladeshi officials. Aided by non-governmental organizations that provide low-cost loans to install solar panels, Bangladesh's rural households — most of which are off the electricity grid — have driven a dizzying expansion of solar power in recent years. In 2002, only 7,000 households were using solar panels. The country reached the 1 million-household milestone 18 months ahead of schedule; and by 2014 Bangladeshi officials are aiming to power 2.5 million homes with solar energy. "It's the fastest expansion of solar energy anywhere in the world," said Nazmul Haq, of Bangladesh's Infrastructure Development Company. An estimated 60 percent of Bangladesh's 150 million people have no access to reliable electricity, and a World Bank report last month said that solar panels had "changed the face of the remote, rural areas of Bangladesh."



State of the oceans revealed

A new report was released last week by the International Programme on the State of the Ocean, and the outlook is not good. The group found that human impact is changing the ocean faster than predicted, and scientists are concerned of the consequences if things don't change now.

[More>](#)

[Climate change threatens reefs](#)

Nearly all of Australia's coral reefs, including the Great Barrier Reef, will suffer from overwhelming climate change in less than two decades, a new report warns.

[Earth's biodiversity: What do we know and where are we headed?](#)

Earth's biodiversity -- the number of microorganisms, plants, and animals, their genes, and their ecosystems -- is declining at an alarming rate, even faster than the last mass extinction 65 million years ago. In fact, two thirds of the terrestrial species that exist today are estimated to be extinct by the end of this century. The American Journal of Botany's Biodiversity Special Issue has collected a broad range of state-of-the-art biodiversity studies.

[NIH links pesticides to Parkinson's.](#)

The National Institutes of Health (USA) recently released research that supported earlier research demonstrating a link between two pesticides and Parkinson's disease



[FOOD SECURITY UNDER THREAT](#)

Consolidation of seed companies leading to corporate domination of world food supply.

Resources

Web resources

[Joeycan Saves Water](#)

Joeycan Company announces the launch of the Joeycan to the Australian market. In response to Australia's water shortage, this innovative new product has the ability to save households up to 4,000 litres of water per year.

[Ecodaily group buy website](#)

Now you can not only be green but potentially save money at the same time with the development of the group buy website [EcoDaily](#). EcoNews' partner offering EcoVoice has developed the [EcoDaily.com.au](#) group buy website to ensure that there's a steady stream of clever green savings available.

[Record greenhouse gas levels: See for yourself](#)

CSIRO website lets public decide on climate change

The CSIRO has launched a website that allows people to see the raw data of greenhouse gases for themselves, as debate continues to rage over the merits of climate change science. Visit the new

The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe publications now available as eBook downloads - All contain new and additional information, coloured pictures and illustrations. Some titles have been completely changed to fit more modern times. Each contains a personal perspective (from me) on my experiences with the topic, recipes I've made, things I've done and why. For full list of publications go to:

http://theshoppe.com.au/?page_id=59 ; website at: www.csiro.au/greenhouse-gases

Climate Action in Mega cities

This report is a comprehensive analysis of what the mayors of the C40 megacities are doing to tackle climate change. Download [Climate Action in Megacities \(PDF / 5878kb\)](#)

Consumers drive solar industry best practice

Consumers will have the power to drive best practice in Australia's solar industry with the launch of the new Solar Electricity Consumer Guide and consumer website www.whichenergy.com.au. The guide, written by award winning sustainable energy expert Trevor Berrill, is intended to give consumers a greater understanding of solar electricity systems to help them make more informed choices when buying a system. The Solar Electricity Consumer Guide and www.whichenergy.com.au compliments the work of government and industry by giving consumers the power to influence industry best practice and make Australia's solar industry one of the best in the world. The first issue of the quarterly Solar Electricity Consumer Guide will be on sale at newsagents throughout Australia for \$10 from July 1. The consumer website www.whichenergy.com.au will also go live on July 1.

UN Report on Education for Sustainability released

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development has recently released the report - [Learning for the Future: Competences in Education for Sustainable Development](#) (PDF, 96 KB). The report makes recommendations for the development of education for sustainable development across all sectors of education and includes guidelines and tools for integration.

[Ecodirectory](#)

EcoDirectory is the original and one of the top directories for green products and services in Australia and gets ~10,000 unique visitors a month. In 2011, EcoDirectory was bought by Karel Boele, director of Jnana Australia, www.jnana.com.au, an international economic research and development consultancy. Karel has been advocating for and worked directly or indirectly in the field of ethical consumption for 15 years. EcoDirectory offers thousands of easy to find quality listings, there is information about each category, listing for businesses is free, a green guide, current social, sustainable and environmental movements via news and updates including a blog by journalist Mark Mann and green business writer Rich Bowden and more. EcoDirectory aims to be the go-to-point for socially responsible and environmentally friendly products and services, news and community engagement. We also provide information on alternative economic means for communities for example complementary currencies. Improvements are in the pipeline to introduce more user interaction, mobile functionality and other features. We would love to hear your feedback as we introduce new features, don't hesitate to send comments via our website. EcoDirectory is also being promoted through networks and expos. We will have a stall at the Organic Expo and Green Show from 5th to 7th August at the Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour in Sydney, come and say hello if you are around. If you need to find a socially responsible and / or environmentally friendly product or service, list your business, sign up to our mailing list and / or join commentary on our site visit www.ecodirectory.com.au

Book Reviews

Repowering Communities

Small-scale Solutions for Large-scale Energy Problems by Prashant Vaze and Stephen Tindale

In this book Vaze and Tindale ask politicians and regulators to consider a different path. Using abundant examples of small scale local solutions Repowering Communities examines how cities, communities and local authorities from across Europe and North America have driven reductions in energy use and rolled out small scale, community level solutions. Among the issues examined are the drivers behind behavioural change, the methods used to secure necessary investment and what government and civil society can do to foster such action on a wide scale.

Based on extensive first-hand research and drawing on the latest global energy data the authors provide essential information and inspiration for readers who wish to drive the policies that encourage community-level energy development.

Save and Grow - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

A new initiative announced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is promoting the use of environmentally sustainable farming techniques to grow increasing amounts of food in the future. This initiative is designed to meet the combined challenges of population growth, increasing fuel and agrochemical prices, increasing competition for water and arable land and climate change. Its full name is Sustainable Crop Production Intensification and is described in the book "Save and Grow", released by the Plant Production and Protection Division of the FAO. "Save and Grow" is available free online at <http://www.fao.org/ag/save-and-grow> or can be purchased from Earthprint at www.earthprint.com for US\$45.00.

[The Spirit of Design Objects, Environment and Meaning by Stuart Walker](#)

Stuart Walker's explorations of localisation, human meaning and functional objects yield a hopeful direction for the future - one that **radically re-imagines our material culture** by meshing mass-production with individuality, products with place, and utilitarian benefit with environmental responsibility.

Handy Hints

Home cleaning kit, by Caitlin Howlett, G Magazine

Here's your basic shopping list for a pure, green clean in the home.

Get rid of toxic nasties in your home and add these natural cleaning products to your cupboards instead. You'll be impressed with the versatility and effectiveness of natural cleaners. Best of all, you'll be pleasantly surprised how much cheaper going natural is too!

- 1. White vinegar.** Valuable for its mild acidity to disinfect and gently neutralise grease, it's a perfect all-round cleaning agent. If you don't like the smell of vinegar, add fresh herb leaves to hot vinegar to make a multi-purpose solution.
- 2. Eucalyptus oil.** A great disinfectant, antiseptic and even insect repellent. It also removes grease, gum and adhesives, and washes wool beautifully.
- 3. Borax.** A naturally occurring mineral salt, the fine white powder softens water and boosts the effectiveness of soaps. Be careful, as it will act like bleach and can be poisonous if it enters the body - including through broken skin.
- 4. Lemons.** The acidity of lemons means they're a mild bleach and will cut through grease and soften stains. They also help repel insects.
- 5. Salt.** Use a salty solution near food preparation areas to disinfect and keep bugs away from the kitchen.
- 6. Bicarb soda.** Sodium bicarbonate is a non-poisonous powder that you can use as a stain remover and is perfect as an abrasive polish in the bathroom. Try a small pot in the fridge to remove any unpleasant smells.
- 7. Olive oil.** It's not only a tasty staple in the kitchen - it's a protective oil for wooden and leather surfaces. Use equal parts olive oil and vinegar to clean and polish timber and remove scratch marks.
- 8. Washing soda.** Sodium carbonate, also commonly called 'Lectric soda', can be used as a diluted liquid solution to remove stains, as a drain-cleaner, and a silver tarnish.

The water-efficient house: it's easy!

Have you ever wondered what you can do to save money on utility bills, while doing something good for our environment? Showering, clothes washing and toilet flushing make up more than three quarters of a typical household's indoor water consumption. By choosing water efficient products you can make significant savings in water and energy use.

- A water efficient showerhead is probably the most economical way to start reducing overall water consumption. Efficient models can reduce water and energy consumption by 43 to 62 percent over more traditional designs. This change can also reduce your combined water and power bills by \$375 to \$535 per year.
- Choosing a more water efficient washing machine when your old one needs replacing can reduce water and energy consumption by 50 to 75 per cent* and save \$90 to \$135 per year on bills.
- If the bathroom is part of your next renovation, have water efficiency in mind when selecting a new toilet. A water-efficient model can reduce consumption by 48 to 60 per cent.

Visit www.waterrating.gov.au to compare all products that must be labeled to show their water efficiency: showers, washing machines, dishwashers, tapware, toilets and urinals.

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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