



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #08 - 23 October 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 all,*

*Welcome to another information-laden edition of our e:news bulletin. A special thanks to Victor Skowronski for the many articles and website summaries.*

*I encourage you to take particular notice of the Office News section which reports on our new local (i.e. Toowoomba) role as acting Regional Environment Council. Also take note of the date of our upcoming AGM and Ordinary Meeting.*

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

*"Don't find fault, find a remedy." - Henry Ford*

## Update on Upcoming Events

1-31 Oct [International Walk to School Month](#)

6 Nov [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)

**7-13 November** - is **National Recycling Week** and there are heaps of ways you can get involved. Why not host your own collection for Eye Glasses, Corks or Mobile Phones? [Click here to find out more.](#)

Maybe you could host a Swap party. This is an event where everyone attending brings one or a certain number of items from home that they no longer want or need. They can then swap those items with those brought along by others. [Click here to find out more.](#) Perhaps you could take this opportunity to discuss recycling with members of your family, neighbours, friends and work colleagues.

**12 Nov** HOPE Annual General Meeting commencing at 10am Sharp!, 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

**12 Nov** HOPE Ordinary Meeting to follow AGM at around 11am.

### 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.

## Office News

Great news folks! HOPE has been asked to act as Regional Environment Council for the Toowoomba area for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Once QCC (Queensland Conservation Council) has ratified our role and responsibilities, and DERM (Department of Environment and Resource Management) has provided the operating funding, we will be seeking suitable premises to establish an Environment Centre. We will also be setting up an Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP) program to strengthen the local/regional environment sector. Offers of assistance in equipping our new office and the environment centre would be greatly appreciated. We're also interested in hearing from groups who would like help manage the centre, have their executive meetings on site, and/or make their library resources available at the centre.

Office volunteers and the management committee have been busy over the past month with:

- conducting information displays at Westfalen Parklands Environmental Expo, Ipswich (11/9); St Luke's *Carnival of Flowers* community event, Toowoomba (17/9); and Ipswich Environment Festival (22/10)
- attending external meetings - Friends of SEQ (South-East Queensland) Ordinary Meeting (24/9); CCMA (Condamine Catchment Management Association) AGM and Ordinary Meeting (29/9); QMDC (Queensland Murray-Darling Committee) AGM and Ordinary Meeting (7/10); and a Landcare focus group (19/10)
- preparing a funding application to Dept of Communities to stage a one day Schools Sustainability Forum as part of *National Youth Week 2012* activities (3/10)
- preparing a response to Qld State Government's *Climate Change: Adaptation for Queensland* issues paper (submitted 20/10)

Lastly, I ask you to take note of our upcoming Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting as per the notices below. I especially encourage local members and supporters to consider stepping forward to help manage the affairs of HOPE - either by nominating for a committee position; or by joining upcoming project and activity working groups.

### **2011 AGM Meeting Notice**

When: Saturday, 12 November 2011, commencing at 10am sharp!

Where: 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

RSVP by Thursday, 10 November. BYO chairs please. Morning tea will be provided.

Proxy Votes:

If unable to attend meeting but would like your vote recorded, please allocate your proxy vote to either Frank Ondrus - President; Miriam Sharp - Newsletter Editor; or Joy van der Wyk - Treasurer.

Please submit additional business items for inclusion on the agenda, by close of business on 10 November 2011.

### **2011 Ordinary Meeting Notice**

When: Saturday, 12 November 2011, starting at around 11am (after AGM)

Where: 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

RSVP by Thursday, 10 November. BYO chairs please. Lunch will be provided.

Proxy Votes:

If unable to attend meeting but would like your vote recorded, please allocate your proxy vote to either Frank Ondrus - President; Miriam Sharp - Newsletter Editor; or Joy van der Wyk - Treasurer.

Please submit additional business items for agenda, by close of business on 10 November 2011.

### 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 that 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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) at your earliest convenience.

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

*Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Advertisement

#### **CLEARANCE SALE --- 2011 National Environmental Grants Guide**

This publication summarises over 180 Australia wide and State based grant and funding opportunities available throughout 2011 and across various categories including nature conservation, energy conservation, renewable energy and heritage. It was put together with a wide audience in mind including schools, community, environment/landcare groups as well as councils, businesses and householders. Sources of grants/funding include the Australian and State/Territory Governments, corporate giving programs as well as the major Australian philanthropic funds and trusts. Designed to present grant information in an easy to access manner, it includes information on how much funding is available for each grant opportunity, how to apply and who is eligible. Website links are provided along with useful contact details, where available, to help readers obtain further information. A sample grant listing and order form can be downloaded from Yarramine Environmental's website - [www.yarramine.com.au](http://www.yarramine.com.au) - Was **\$34.95** plus **\$4.95** postage and handling, now only **\$20.00** inclusive.

## Feature Articles

### Climate Change - Global Action - Facts and Fiction

The current political debate regarding the "Carbon Tax" together with the ongoing debate regarding the reality or severity of Climate Change has left many people confused and uncertain. There are some who believe that Climate Change is not occurring at all, while others believe that the problem is being exaggerated. One of the main arguments put forward against the "Carbon Tax" is that other countries have not implemented similar measures and that as a consequence Australian industries will become uncompetitive in global markets because of this additional tax. Many people feel that Australia is rushing to lead the way in this area and would prefer to wait and see what action is taken by other developed countries before deciding what should be done here.

The best way to address these concerns and this confusion is to find information from independent, unbiased sources. Unfortunately it can be difficult to find such sources amongst the thousands of organizations and commentators bombarding us with facts, reports and opinions.

An excellent source of information is the Australian Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency. A section of their website is devoted to **Global action - facts and fiction**, and provides a wealth of information covering Climate Change, Carbon Pricing and details of actions being taken in many countries around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Information on this website makes it clear that Climate Change is real, that Australia is one of the worst offenders in the emission of greenhouse gases and that Australia is not alone in tackling the problem.

Of particular interest in the current political debate are the following Fact Sheets:

- Climate Change: Countries Acting Now
- International Pledges on Climate Change Action: The Future
- Australia: Part of the Climate Problem - Part of the Solution

Other resources on the site include a list of Frequently Asked Questions, details of Australia's greenhouse gas emission levels and a summary of emission trading schemes in other countries.

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website is at:

[www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)

The section of this site dealing with **Global action - Facts and fiction** is at:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/international/global-action-facts-and-fiction.aspx>

*(Prepared by Victor Skowronski, HOPE Volunteer, 10 September 2011)*

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### MobileMuster - Mobile Phone Recycling: "Round 'em up and Hand 'em in!"

#### About MobileMuster

**MobileMuster** is the official recycling program for mobile phones in Australia, and was initiated voluntarily by the Australian mobile telecommunications industry in 1999. It is a not-for-profit program funded solely by mobile phone manufacturers and network carriers to collect and recycle mobile phones and prevent them from ending up in landfill. **MobileMuster** is the industry's commitment to product stewardship and is the only whole-of-industry led electronic product recycling program in the world. All mobile phones are recycled to the highest environmental standards and none are refurbished or sold for reuse.

**MobileMuster** involves a number of organizations from the mobile phone industry including:

- ^ industry members (i.e. handset manufacturers and network carriers) who fund and support the program

- ⤴ over 7,000 wranglers (e.g. mobile phone retail stores, service centres, other retailers, local councils, state and federal government agencies and businesses) who help collect mobile phones by either hosting public collection points (3,500) or collecting from staff, customers and/or students (4,000)
- ⤴ Australia Post who distribute free recycling satchels (just ask at the counter)
- ⤴ numerous service providers who transport, recycle and process mobile phones, batteries and accessories

### **Why Recycle Mobile Phones?**

There are an estimated 19 million old, unused mobile phones in Australian homes. More than half of Australian mobile phone users keep their previous mobile phone even if it isn't working, and almost a third of users have 2 or more old mobile phones at home. These phones are wonderful candidates for recycling for the following reasons:

- ⤴ to prevent pollution and protect our environment
- ⤴ to minimize solid and hazardous waste going to landfill
- ⤴ to recover resources to manufacture new products
- ⤴ to reduce the need to use raw materials and save our natural resources

Did you know that 90% of a mobile phone is recyclable? These materials can be used to make gold rings, aluminium cans, plastic fence posts and stainless steel items. Recycling 250,000 old phones, batteries and accessories equals 48,000 aluminium cans, 2,400 plastic fence posts and also avoids the need to mine more than 728 tonnes of gold ore, 808 tonnes of silver ore and 178 tonnes of copper sulphide.

Almost 6 million mobile phones have been collected by MobileMuster since the project started at the end of 1998.

### **How to Recycle Mobile Phones**

Take your old phones to a collection point. There are over 4,500 collection points Australia wide including:

- ⤴ Nokia Care and Motorola ServiceOne Centres
- ⤴ Mobile Phone Retailers - Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, 3 Mobile, Virgin Mobile, Crazy Johns, Fone Zone, Allphones, Dick Smiths and Harvey Norman
- ⤴ Cartridge World stores
- ⤴ Battery World stores
- ⤴ Officeworks
- ⤴ Salvo stores
- ⤴ Over 300 local councils
- ⤴ participating Sydney Credit Union branches

Alternatively you can recycle by post in the following ways:

- ⤴ Free recycling satchels are now available from participating Australia Post outlets nationwide.
- ⤴ You can download a reply-paid mailing label from the MobileMuster website and use your own satchel.

### **More Information**

Further information and reply-paid mailing labels are available from the MobileMuster website at:

<http://www.mobilemuster.com.au>

## Mutual Support Partners and Other Organisations

### Make Poverty History – Every Minute Counts.

Make Poverty History is a campaign committed to raising awareness of global poverty and related issues and pressuring governments into achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015. Although it is a secular campaign, it is supported by a coalition of more than 70 aid and development organisations, community and faith-based groups. In Australia, it works in partnership with Micah Challenge and the Global Call For Action Against Poverty.

The campaign has played a leading role in achieving federal government policy commitments to increase aid levels, significantly increase the percentage of the aid budget to NGO and civil society programs, and ensuring aid programming is measured against the UN Millennium Development Goals and reported to the Federal Parliament. The Make Poverty History campaign is not a fundraising campaign. Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to help end global poverty should give to the existing poverty-alleviating programs of the member organisations.

The campaign website contains a wide variety of materials including an e-newsletter, a blog, videos, brochures and links to a range of educational resources targeted predominantly at young people, students and teachers including:

- An activity kit for students to help explore the importance of basic education and the effects of global poverty.
- A guide to visiting Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister.
- A guide to writing letters to Members of Parliament and the Prime Minister.
- Simulation Games and Activities for teachers and student groups.
- Publications relating to the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- Links to on-line communities and forums for youth who share a concern for issues such as child exploitation, unfair trade, HIV/AIDS and global poverty.

There are also facilities for individuals, other NGOs, churches, organisations or groups to join the campaign and become members of Make Poverty History.

Website: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.com.au> ; Email: [mph@makepovertyhistory.com.au](mailto:mph@makepovertyhistory.com.au)

Phone: (03) 9251 5290

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### Health groups step up on climate

A new coalition of health professionals and health care stakeholders has joined forces to advocate for urgent action on climate change to protect public health.

The Climate and Health Alliance is an umbrella group of health care organisations which includes a range of health disciplines, including medical specialists, doctors, nurses and social workers, as well as health care providers, research organisations and consumer groups.



Fiona Armstrong (pictured) is the organisation's founder and convenor, and describes how the organisation came about.

"Prior to this role, I was working in health policy advocacy, working hard to bring about change in the health sector in terms of how health care was funded and delivered - to try and overcome the cost and blame-shifting, the overemphasis on hospitals and the failure to emphasise prevention - that is associated with the delivery of health care in our federation. "However, by 2008, I was increasingly alarmed by our failure to respond to the threat of climate change, so I left my job to do a Masters in Politics and Public Policy,

looking at climate policy options for Australia. Once I had completed that, I was convinced that there

was no more urgent public policy problem and decided to devote my time to addressing it. I graduated in March in 2010, and I then set about rekindling an idea that I had discussed with a few colleagues several years before - to establish a 'Green Health Alliance'. This led to the development of formal proposal which was sent to over forty health care stakeholder groups, and in May 2010 we had the inaugural meeting at which there was unanimous support to establish the 'Climate and Health Alliance'. This was not backing away from a broader concern about ecological degradation, but recognising that global warming was the most urgent symptom of that."

Since last year, the Climate and Health Alliance has been busy. They have been to Canberra to meet with federal parliamentarians on a couple of occasions; they have produced a series of briefing papers on why climate change is a health issue and how a price on carbon is good for health; they have contributed submissions to government inquiries on the relationship between human health and biodiversity and population; and participated in the recent Senate Inquiry into wind farms. The Climate and Health Alliance is part of several broader campaigns, including the *Say Yes* campaign, in which (along with other civil society groups) they are calling for people to support climate action. They are also involved in the *Voices of the Murray Darling: Our Rivers, Our Lifeblood* campaign, through which they are calling for the Murray Darling Basin Plan to recognise the importance of healthy ecosystems for human health, and for the restoration of environmental flows based on science, not politics.

In December the Climate and Health Alliance will join global partners *Health Care Without Harm*, the *Climate and Health Council* (UK), and the *World Health Organisation*, among others, in the first ever Global Climate and Health Summit to be held in Durban, in parallel with the next UN COP 17 meeting. For more information, visit [www.caha.org.au](http://www.caha.org.au)

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**LOCK THE GATE** is an active and rapidly-growing national alliance of over 100 community, industry and environmental groups, around 400 individual members and 1000 supporters concerned with the impact of fossil fuel extraction industries on health, the environment and the economy. The main areas of concern for the alliance are the coal mining and coal seam gas extraction industries.

Members of the alliance believe that individuals and governments at all levels are not sufficiently well informed about the short-term and long-term impacts of these industries, and that short-term gains may compromise the welfare of future generations of Australians. They are also concerned that the close cooperation between these industries and governments has resulted in an extreme imbalance between the rights of the industries compared with the rights of others in the community, and that this is indicative of a system that is no longer working for all Australians.

The alliance calls for an immediate moratorium on approvals of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction projects until the impacts of these industries has been fully assessed through an independent inquiry at the national level such as a Royal Commission. Another objective is the immediate establishment of an independent authority to monitor and ensure compliance by companies that are engaged in fossil fuel extraction with the conditions of their licenses. The alliance advocates the withdrawal of all levels of government from financial investment in the fossil fuel extraction industry to prevent a conflict of interest arising with governments' role in ensuring the wellbeing of all its citizens.

The **LOCK THE GATE** website contains:

- News and media releases
- A calendar of coming events and a photo gallery of recent events
- Information about coal seam gas extraction methods and environmental impacts
- Sample letters to send to politicians
- Information about individuals' rights under trespass laws

- List of participating groups
- Application form to join the LOCK THE GATE alliance
- A range of publications and videos regarding the effects of open-cut coal mining and coals seam gas extraction on human health.

Further information can be found at: <http://lockthegate.org.au/>

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**Beyond Zero Emissions** is an Australian climate change solutions think-tank founded in 2006 by Matthew Wright and Adrian Whitehead with guidance from Phillip Sutton. It is a not-for-profit organization whose core goal is to develop blueprints for the implementation of climate change solutions that will reduce atmospheric greenhouse gases to a level that will enable humanity and our natural environment to thrive and flourish. It also runs broad-based education campaigns based on this research. The group is very active in lobbying state and federal governments to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions to 'zero and below' by implementing structural changes to stationary energy, transport, agriculture, logging, housing and construction and by implementing energy efficiency measures.

Beyond Zero Emissions subscribes to the view that at 390ppm the 2011 atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is at a dangerously high level and that even when the goal of a zero emissions global economy has been achieved, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide will still need to be reduced further. They state that given 350ppm was the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide at which the disintegration of the Arctic sea-ice began and a level somewhere between 280ppm (pre-industrial) and 325ppm is considered to be a safe threshold, reducing the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide to this level is desired. They believe that this will be achieved by going beyond zero emissions using methods such as ending the logging of native forests and by the widespread production of crop-residual agrichar to help reduce the atmospheric carbon dioxide level further.

In July 2010 Beyond Zero Emissions, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne Energy Research Institute, released a major publication - "Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan", a visionary fully-costed ten year road map for 100% baseload energy supplied by renewable sources. The Beyond Zero Emissions website is packed with information and resources including the publication "Zero Carbon Australia Stationary Energy Plan", a monthly newsletter, information sheets, briefing papers, policy submissions, recommendations, flyers and posters, discussion groups, a blog, news feeds and links to a wide range of related material on the web. The campaign is also active on social media sites including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook etc and has a radio program twice a week on 3CR. Further details are available at <http://beyondzeroemissions.org>

*Advertisement*

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## **Earthwatch**

Earthwatch is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing people and science together to advance conservation, research and education for a sustainable planet. Paying volunteers work alongside leading scientists on research expeditions ranging from diving and snorkelling to projects dealing with mammals, archaeology and climate change in more than 30 countries.

The work of Earthwatch is not only unique, it is effective. Since 1971, 100,000 global supporters, volunteers, scientists and educators have committed nearly 11 million hours to conservation research - equal to more than 5,000 years of solid hard work. That kind of commitment gets results.

Two projects that Earthwatch has organised:

### **Melbourne Microbats**

Help protect Melbourne's Microbats and enjoy the privilege of sleeping inside the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Microbats range from the size of a moth to a hand and live off mosquitoes and other insects. They are extremely important for the liveability of our city in the warmer months, eating up to 600 mosquitoes an hour. Pruning of dead trees, artificial lighting and park design may lead to the extinction of Melbourne's microbats. By joining a research team you will help assess the long-term viability of microbats and monitor breeding behaviours, birth rates and roosting locations.

Join a microbats team:

- Conduct night surveys searching for bats and trapping bats
- Learn about the threats facing microbats
- Do your bit for the environment

Volunteer teams kick off on Friday 4 November and run through until 3 March, families also welcome. \$89 for adults and \$59 for children. To sign up call Earthwatch on 03 9682 6828 or visit [www.earthwatch.org.au](http://www.earthwatch.org.au)

### **Bandicoots on the Brink - Family Weekend**

Protect North Head's (Manly, Sydney) native bandicoots from attack by introduced predators and save them from extinction. Spend the day in the spectacular North Head Sanctuary to lure and catch bandicoot predators on camera alongside Wildlife Ecologist Dr Cameron Radford. Volunteers of this one-day expedition will use remote sensor, infrared cameras and scent lures to attract and film predators, use GPS to record habitats, and analyse footage recorded.

Bring the Family along! A family weekend is available from 18th-20th November 2011. Enjoy the special privilege of camping inside the stunning North Head Sanctuary while helping save the long-nosed bandicoot from extinction. This is a great hands-on family learning experience and allow kids as young as 10 to join in on the fun! Adults cost \$195 and kids only \$155.

To sign up call Earthwatch on 03 9682 6828 or visit [www.earthwatch.org.au](http://www.earthwatch.org.au)

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## **Want to be an energy and climate change leader in your local community?**

### **Volunteer for Energymark**

Volunteer for Energymark and reduce your carbon footprint and power bills. CSIRO and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage are looking for volunteers to lead small group discussions on energy, climate change, water and waste in their communities. You don't need to know a lot about energy and climate change to participate - simply gather a small group of people (family, friends, neighbours or workmates) for discussions using support and discussion material provided by CSIRO and NSW Government.

Energymark works by volunteer convenors getting small groups of people together to meet regularly to learn and discuss what they can do to make a difference. Convenors and participants receive easy-to-read fact sheets that the discussions are based on. There is a lot of talking, activities and sharing ideas to help at home! Anyone can get involved! The NSW Energymark program is a CSIRO initiative in partnership with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage helping households lower power bills and reduce our impact on the environment.

To register or for more information visit [www.energymark.com.au](http://www.energymark.com.au) or call 1300 119 003

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### **The Shiny Halo - Central NSW taking action for a resilient future.**

The Shiny Halo is a weblog or 'blog' set up and maintained by CENTROC (Central NSW Councils) to encourage action by councils, businesses, schools, other organizations and individuals to help build social and/or environmental resilience in the community. The blog was launched in May 2010 and it's popularity has grown steadily.

The Shiny Halo blog showcases stories about climate change and/or environment initiatives each week and visitors to the site are encouraged to comment on the stories and share their ideas, experiences and inspiration. As a further incentive for the community to become involved, an innovative Tree Xchange program has been introduced. For each comment describing some positive action towards resilience, whether large or small, a tree will be planted in the region as part of National Tree Day 2011.

The Shiny Halo Blog was awarded a Highly Commended Award for *Energy Saving and Climate Adaptation/Mitigation* in the 2010/2011 Local Government and Shires Association Excellence in the Environment Awards. The website also includes monthly archives going back to May 2010, links to other sustainability and resilience websites and links to CENTROC councils and projects.

Further details are available at <http://centroc.com.au/shinyhalo>

## **National News**

### [New energy in search for future wind](#)

Scientists are taking the first steps to improve estimates of long-term wind speed changes for the fast-growing wind energy sector, intended to reduce the risks for generators in a changing climate. Some recent international studies have shown a decrease in wind speeds in several parts of the globe, including across Australia. However, more recent results by CSIRO show that Australia's average wind speed is actually increasing.

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### [First-ever free easy to understand consumer guide to the organic standards](#)

Have you ever asked yourself: What is the difference between organic and non-organic honey? Milk? Meat? Clothing? The answers all lie within the newly launched free, downloadable consumer guide to the Australian Certified Organic Standard. The Standard is the most widely used in Australia encompassing the rules which apply to organic operators using the recognisable Australian Certified Organic logo, among others. For the first time in Australia there is an easy reference guide to the Standards - a welcome alternative to the full version (a technically worded document spanning 125 pages). The guide is preceded by a fabulous brief including "all those questions about organics you wanted to know but were afraid to ask..." and concludes with 20 good reasons to buy organic all backed by the latest peer reviewed research. [Download the guide free at this link!](#)

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## **CFOC Cooby Project Landcare State Landcare Award Winners!!**

Caring for Our Country (CFOC) Open Grants project '*Adopt, Adapt and Apply - Landcare Achieving Sustainable Farming & Biodiversity Targets in the Cooby Catchment*' has been awarded the Toshiba Community Group Award recently at Government House Brisbane. This project has been a partnership between Toowoomba Landcare Group, Highfields/Cooby Landcare group, Aquila NRM, Mr George Lambert and Toowoomba Regional Council.

The project has seen 25 landholders take part in property planning, increasing native habitat through fencing of remnant vegetation and planting local endemic plant species, controlling over 200ha of Weeds of National Significance (Lantana), soil testing, establishing permanent pastures and building a community nursery. As part of this project workshops were held to deliver native bushland management, weed control and sustainable farming to equip landholders in achieving sustainable land use practices on their own properties.

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## **World News**

### **Five ways to feed billions without trashing the planet.**

At the end of this month the UN predicts global population will hit 7 billion people, having doubled from 3.5 billion in less than 50 years. Yet even as the Earth hits this new milestone, one billion people do not have enough food. A new study proposes a way to feed the population without polluting the planet. [http://news.mongabay.com/2011/1013-hance\\_feedtheworld.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2011/1013-hance_feedtheworld.html)

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### **5th issue of the UNEP Policy Series- Sustaining forests: Investing in our common future**

[http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/unep\\_policy\\_series/5thUNEPPolicySeries.pdf](http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/unep_policy_series/5thUNEPPolicySeries.pdf)

In this issue the focus is on the role of forests in a green economy and climate change. The paper discusses opportunities for innovative solutions to forest management that take into account economic values of forests to human well-being. The paper also stresses that degraded forests and insecure flows of forest ecosystem services can make communities and sectors more vulnerable to climate variability and change and lead to increased adaptation costs. Over 410 million people directly depend on forests for subsistence and income. Another estimated 1.6 billion people indirectly depend on forest goods and services. It is estimated that the annual value of internationally traded forest products is between \$150 billion and \$200 billion. Also, standing forests are vital in the fight against climate change due to their potential carbon sequestration rate of between 1.1 to 1.6 Gt per year. The complexity of the current threats to forests notwithstanding, the use of innovative market and policy mechanisms can internalize the true economic value of forests as productive natural assets that generate goods and services at different levels to promote investment. Mechanisms that combine social, economic and environmental benefits are necessary to encourage sustained investment in forests for the success of a green economy.

Forests have the potential to reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate change impacts by protecting settlements from natural hazards and supply interruptions and enhancing livelihoods and food security, while also playing an important role in the adaptation of national economic sectors

Full paper can be found on this link:

[http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/unep\\_policy\\_series/5thUNEPPolicySeries.pdf](http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/unep_policy_series/5thUNEPPolicySeries.pdf)

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## **The Acid Earth**

Human use of Earth's natural resources is making the air, oceans, freshwaters, and soils more acidic, according to a U.S. Geological Survey – University of Virginia study available online in the journal, *Applied Geochemistry*. This comprehensive review, the first on this topic to date, found the mining and burning of coal, the mining and smelting of metal ores, and the use of nitrogen fertilizer are the major causes of chemical oxidation processes that end generate acid in the Earth-surface environment. These widespread activities have increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, increasing the relative acidity of oceans; produced acid rain that has increased the acidity of freshwater bodies and soils; produced drainage from mines that has increased the acidity of freshwater streams and groundwater; and added nitrogen to crop lands that has increased the acidity of soils.

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### **An Efficient Solar Harvest**

Solar power could be harvested more efficiently and transported over longer distances using tiny molecular circuits based on quantum mechanics, according to research inspired by new insights into natural photosynthesis. Incorporating the latest research into how plants, algae and some bacteria use quantum mechanics to optimize energy production via photosynthesis, UCL scientists have set out how to design molecular circuitry that is 10 times smaller than the thinnest electrical wire in computer processors. Published in *Nature Chemistry*, the report discusses how tiny molecular energy grids could capture, direct, regulate and amplify raw solar energy.

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### **Coral Reefs likely to disappear by the end of the century**

Coral reefs will be gone by the end of the century, according to a top UN Scientist. This would give coral reefs the dubious accolade of being the first entire ecosystem to have been destroyed by human activity. In the recently published book 'Our Dying Planet', Professor Peter Sale writes that coral reef ecosystems are very likely to disappear by the end of this century, in what would be "a new first for mankind – the 'extinction' of an entire ecosystem". Sale, who leads a team at the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, reports that the decline in coral reefs is mainly due to climate change and ocean acidification. Other activities, including overfishing, pollution and coastal development, have also had a devastating impact on the world's coral reefs. "We're creating a situation where the organisms that make coral reefs are becoming so compromised by what we're doing that many of them are going to be extinct, and the others are going to be very, very rare," says Sale.

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### **World's first consumer standard label for wind power launched**

The technical standard for the first global consumer label for companies to buy wind power and other clean renewable energy has been launched today. The program is backed by companies including WWF, Vestas Wind Systems, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC), the LEGO Group, Bloomberg and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Effective from today, the WindMade standard allows interested entities to apply for use of the label to communicate the share of wind power and other renewable sources in their overall power consumption demand. <http://www.enn.com/energy/article/43402>

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### **The Copenhagen Manifesto on Sustainable Growth**

Approximately 400 participants from 21 countries on October 13th, 2011, adopted the Copenhagen Manifesto on Sustainable Growth, presented by The Green Growth Leaders at Take Lead in Copenhagen. The Manifesto's headline is "The Greatest Story Never Told", because during Take Lead delegates presented a large body of evidence that the green economy is already emerging around us. The two days of conference pointed to the significance of focusing on the benefits and potential of the transition, underlining that it will bring prosperity and progress to communities all over the world. Read the full text of the Manifesto at:

<http://greengrowthleaders.org/uncategorized/the-copenhagen-manifesto-on-sustainable-growth/>

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**Global Video Dialogue Series on Climate Change - Website Available**

We would like to share with you the results and resources from the Global Video Dialogue Series on Climate Change, organized jointly by the World Bank Institute's Climate Change Practice and the World Bank country office in Pretoria, South Africa, which has covered key issues relevant to the upcoming United Nations Climate Conference (COP 17) in Durban in November/December 2011.

The knowledge sharing events under the Series took place between May and September 2011, and were designed for climate experts and practitioners from developed and developing countries - to learn, reflect, ask questions and hear from others. The topics covered included:

- [Climate Resilient Cities](#)
- [Adaptation, Food Security and Rural Development](#)
- [Climate Finance](#)
- [Scaling up Mitigation Actions in Cities](#)
- [Education and Technology](#)

The landing web-page, which contains the videos and materials from all sessions, can be accessed through this link:

<http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/content/global-dialogue-series-climate-change-road-durban>

## Resources

### Grants

#### BK Dahl Trust small grants

This fund supports communities undertaking eucalyptus education, promotion, cultivation, establishment and conservation with grants of up to \$15,000. Applications close 4 November 2011 and further information is available at [www.dahltrust.org.au](http://www.dahltrust.org.au) or by phoning 03 8648 6510.

#### Optus Regional Grants

This fund aims to support regional communities through a range of activities including protecting the environment and building social inclusion. Grants between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be awarded. Applications close 31 October and further information is available on [optuscountry@optus.com.au](mailto:optuscountry@optus.com.au) or <http://tinyurl.com/wombat92>.

#### Natural Resource Awareness Grants

The theme for this year's program is building landscape resilience. Grants of up to \$5000 are available to help groups promote the importance of natural resources in our lives, while encouraging Queensland's volunteers to become involved in looking after these resources. Applications close 18 November and further information is available from [nrawarenessgrants@derm.qld.gov.au](mailto:nrawarenessgrants@derm.qld.gov.au). Collaborative projects are eligible for up to \$10,000 however a pool of only \$150,000 is available.

#### Community Benefit Funds

The four funds administered by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation close to applications this month. Applications to Gambling Community Benefit Fund, Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund, Breakwater Island Community Benefit Fund and Reef Casino Community Benefit Fund close 30 November 2011 and further information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/wombat32> or by calling 1800 633 619.

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