



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2011 #09 - 23 December 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 and Season's Greetings,

What another busy year it has been for the HOPE newsletter team. Thank you to all who have contributed items throughout the year and especially for submitting articles for this edition ... your contributions are much appreciated.

Please take note of the Office News - especially the results of our November AGM and exciting plans for 2012.

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

Early Date Claimer

Talking Wildlife: 50 years of conservation with Wildlife Queensland Friday 7 - Saturday 8 September 2012

Wildlife Queensland is bringing together some of Queensland's leading wildlife researchers and campaigners to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2012. The event, Talking Wildlife, will take place on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September 2012 at Bardon Conference Centre and registrations will open in April. Talking Wildlife will feature topics such as Traditional wildlife knowledge, how wildlife saves the world, achieving the balance with the resource industry, urban ecology, environment and the law, conservation campaigning, biodiversity protection and wildlife interpretation and community education.

Sponsorship opportunities are now open and can be viewed by contacting Chloe Popa - chloe@wombatcreative.com.au. Those interested in attending as delegates can be added to our mailing list by contacting Wildlife Queensland: talkingwildlife@wildlife.org.au. Further information will be available in the new year at www.wildlife.org.au. If you'd like a story for your newsletter or you're doing a mailout we can piggy-back on, please do let us know. We'd love to see you all there.

Samantha Morris | Wombat Creative

Helping communities achieve sustainability goals

Phone 0421 709 519 | Email sam@wombatcreative.com.au

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

Hello folks,

What an extraordinary time the HOPE organisation has had in 2011.

At a national level, we continued to expand the network with some 950+ entries on our database - including some 25+ Mutual Support Partners (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/mutual-support-partnerships>) and 200+ NGOs listed as either member groups or supporters.

In Queensland, HOPE's membership of the Queensland Conservation Council (www.qccqld.org.au/) and Queensland Water and Land Carers (www.qwalc.org.au/) has borne much fruit.

Firstly, QCC has recently appointed HOPE as the acting Regional Environment Council for the Toowoomba area for 2 years and DERM (Qld Department of Environment and Resource Management) has provided HOPE with operating funding for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 financial years.

In early 2012, we plan to establish a new and expanded Environment (Education and Resource) Centre; and an Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP) program to facilitate the development of a strong, vibrant, cohesive, integrated and supportive environment sector working collaboratively and co-operatively in the promotion of sustainable environmental practices.

Secondly, with QWalC's support and some possible local partnerships, we plan to undertake a number of landcare based projects over the next 2 years. We will also be actively promoting Junior Landcare and the Green Nomads programs.

Annual General Meeting results

Our AGM held on 12 November 2011 brought some changes to the executive and support staff for the coming year.

The executive for 2011-2012 are:

- *President - Frank Ondrus*
- *Vice-President - Nigel Kimball*
- *Secretary - Amanda Kimball*
- *Treasurer - Joy van der Wyk*

Ordinary members who fulfil roles as admin support staff:

- *Volunteer Coordinator - vacant*
- *Media Officer - vacant*
- *Membership Officer - Chris Withers*
- *Newsletter Editor - Miriam Sharp*
- *Website Manager - Stephen Warburton*
- *IT Advisor - David Shipp*
- *Librarian - vacant*

Ordinary Meeting, 12 November 2011

Key business items of HOPE's ordinary meeting held on 12 November 2011 were

- *the President's participation in QWalC's AGM via teleconference (14/11); attendance at QCC/DERM Environmental Roundtable (21-25/11); attendance at QCC's AGM (22/11); and attendance at Friends of SEQ meeting (26/11).*
- *discussion on proposed 2012 projects - School's Sustainability Forum (20 Apr) and Pathways to Sustainability Expo (Sept) → grants and sponsorship sought for both events*

Lastly, I would like to thank committee members, volunteers and our myriad of supporters for your concerted efforts in making Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) a respected, well liked and successful community organisation.

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

Environmental Calendar notices

We are still at the start of the [Decade of Biodiversity](#), however 2012 brings the ... United Nations [International Year of Sustainable Energy for All](#) and [International Year of Cooperatives](#) and Australian Year of the Farmer.

Please see what you can do support/promote/contribute to these important observances

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 at your earliest convenience.

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

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.



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Feature Articles

Get butt-free, by David Curtin - *Keep Australia Beautiful*



In a Queensland push to reduce "butt-litter", Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland invites all clubs, shopping centres, entertainment precincts and communities to become "butt-free". Does your community (or business) have the widespread problem of butts in your car parks, gardens, lawns or pot-plants? Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland (KABQ) is tackling butt-litter by inviting clubs, shopping centres, entertainment precincts and communities to become butt-free zones, encouraging those who smoke to get a personal

ashtray instead of dropping butts wherever convenient.

The Redlands Sporting Club was the first venue in Queensland to adopt the initiative and the club says that the ashtrays are having a very good impact in reducing butts on the ground and the need for costly clean-ups. Members can purchase their personal ashtrays from club reception for \$3 with \$1 going to KABQ. The ashtrays can be used for years, are easily carried and contain the smell of the butts from pockets or handbags.

KABQ CEO, Rick Burnett, former host of the Channel 9 Extra program, said that an estimated 7-billion cigarette butts are littered in Australia every year.

"One in 10 of those butts end up in our waterways. That's 700 million a year or nearly 2 million a day and the numbers keep growing because they last for years. So the best way to combat butt-litter ending up in Queensland's waterways is to get all smokers to carry personal ashtrays - then there is no excuse." Rick said that in Port Douglas some shops will not sell a pack of cigarettes unless the customer already has, or buys at the same time, a personal ashtray. It's a direct local campaign to help the Great Barrier Reef wildlife and eco-system.

If all the clubs, shopping centres, entertainment precincts and communities in Queensland were to sell the ashtrays and create a sense of "doing the right thing" about butts, smokers could at least feel good about helping to reduce butt-litter. "Queensland is a happy, family environment. No one wants to see little piles of butts on the ground, certainly not the council maintenance and garden staff, who must spend countless hours sweeping or picking them up. It is a simple behaviour change for smokers that don't think about the consequences when they drop a butt or push it into a pot plant or garden bed," Rick said. If your club, business or community wishes to support the KABQ campaign, visit the www.kabq.org.au website and send an email to info@kabq.org.au to receive signage and ashtrays.

Celebrating it's 40 year anniversary, KABQ is Queensland's longest serving environmental organisation. And while it's saving on maintenance staff time, it's also providing support for KABQ, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary as our longest serving environmental organisation in Queensland.

BUTT FACTS

- Almost 50% of all litter in urban areas is tobacco related products including butts, cellophane wrapping, foil inserts and packaging.
 - Approximately 7.2 billion cigarettes are discarded in Australia each year. If placed end to end they would extend 144,000 kilometres and circle the planet 3.6 times.
 - Over 4,500 fires a year are caused by cigarettes and smokers' materials.
 - Littered butts leak toxic emissions (such as cadmium, lead and arsenic and zinc) into water and soil as they decompose, contributing to soil and water pollution and impacting wildlife habitat.
 - Estimates on the biodegradability of cigarette butts hugely vary considering their environment. Some organisations state they take up to 15 years to break down.
 - Cigarette filters have been found in the stomachs of fish, birds, sea turtles and other marine creatures.
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Food Security under Threat, by Victor Skowronski

The future world demand for food will place huge pressure on global food systems. The world population has already reached 7 billion in 2011 and is expected to be over 9 billion by 2050, bringing about an estimated 70 per cent increase in food demand during this period. Australia doesn't currently have a problem feeding its own population but has a humanitarian interest in food security and stability for developing countries. This level of food production is heavily dependent on the use of fossil fuels and cannot continue indefinitely in its current form.

Australian agricultural exports support global efforts to achieve food security. Global trade is important in the global food security equation, because floods, droughts and other natural disasters make it impossible to exactly match local food production with the regional demand. Ideally, apart from these crisis situations, food should be produced locally in the communities where it is needed.

Factors threatening the security of global food supply include:-

- Population growth
- Climate change
- Global water crisis
- Land degradation
- Fossil fuel dependence
- Plant diseases
- Use of food crops to produce biofuel
- Loss of prime agricultural land for housing and industrial estates
- Mining activity
- Hybridization, genetic engineering and loss of agricultural and livestock biodiversity
- Consolidation of seed companies leading to corporate domination of world food supply
- Intellectual property rights
- Land purchases by wealthy nations

Food security in Australia is also threatened by these global pressures. Currently Australia produces 93% of our food requirements, but there is no room for complacency and these issues need to be addressed. While it is important to meet global humanitarian obligations, we should be aware of the need to act in order to protect our own food supply and its long term environmental sustainability.

As individuals, we can't solve all the problems affecting global food security but we can ensure that these issues are widely discussed and understood, and lobby governments at all levels to take action. Some of these issues, however, are amenable to local action. HOPE believes that the food security situation could be vastly improved if food were grown locally within the community where it is consumed.

Growing food locally can be done in a number of ways. Where possible, people should be encouraged to grow at least a portion of their food requirements at home, in their own back yard. For those people who do not have a suitable area for growing food at home but are keen to do so, plots should be made available in community gardens. In addition to this home-grown or community-grown produce, and in particular for crops which do not lend themselves to growing at home, community supported agriculture schemes should be established in the surrounding area, and local farmers' markets established in the community.

By growing food locally, we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to transport produce vast distances from where it is grown to where it is consumed. In addition, if this locally produced food was grown organically, it would further reduce our dependence on fossil fuels for use in fertilizer and pesticide production. If food is grown in small, varied plots in backyards, community gardens and small local mixed farms, the problems of pests and plant diseases are reduced when compared with the vast monoculture farms which have become the norm today.

Local food producers can guard against the problems of hybridization, genetic engineering and loss of agricultural biodiversity by growing a range of varieties of each crop including heirloom varieties and then saving the seeds. Economies of scale in large monoculture farms often preclude the growing of several varieties of a single crop. Usually only a single variety of a crop is grown, and this variety is continuously modified by seed companies to accelerate growth rates, survive longer during transport and last longer on supermarket shelves. In the process, biodiversity is lost. When new pests or diseases strike these highly specialized varieties, the results can be catastrophic unless increased amounts of pesticides and fungicides are used to save the crop. Older, less specialized varieties of the same crop might survive new pests or diseases without the increased use of chemicals.

HOPE has a range of publications covering the issues affecting food security. Information is available on home gardening, Community Supported Agriculture, Transition Towns etc. Visit the HOPE website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/>.

The Queensland Conservation Council has a campaign aimed at increasing the production and consumption of locally grown food in Southeast Queensland. The campaign, known as Grow Local, is about getting people involved in growing food locally in back yards and community gardens, about understanding where our food comes from and supporting local farmers. For further information visit their website at <http://www.grow-local.com.au>.

For an example of an active, vibrant community farm which also provides support to home gardeners, conducts courses and holds regular farmers' markets visit the Northey Street City Farm website at <http://www.northeystreetcityfarm.org.au>.

For more information on Australia's role in the global food security picture, visit the CSIRO website at <http://www.csiro.au/en/Organisation-Structure/Divisions/Plant-Industry/Food-security-explained.aspx>.

Where lies the future of our National Parks in Queensland,

by Paul Donatui, Executive Coordinator - National Parks Association of Queensland

Established in 1930, the National Parks Association of Queensland is an environmental not-for-profit that promotes the preservation, expansion and wise management of National Parks and other protected areas in Queensland, and educates members and the public about the same. NPAQ liaises closely with the Queensland Department of the Environment and Resource Management (DERM) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. NPAQ has 4 part-time staff, over 100 active volunteers and currently 830 members. NPAQ is part of a national NPA collective - the National Parks Australia Council.

NPAQ has a fundamental interest in advocating how and where future protected area acquisitions should be made, how National Park acquisitions are resourced, and how the protected area estate is managed. This article addresses the first part of this interest.

Currently in Australia, many conservation groups and governments are promoting the establishment of landscape scale corridors as mechanisms to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function. Corridor projects such as the Great Eastern Ranges on the east coast and Gondwana Link in Western Australia are valuable when they promote collective conservation effort amongst land managers, reduce fragmentation, increase habitat area or provide altitudinal pathways for plants and animals where this is possible. However, many landscape corridor projects in Australia overstate the migratory benefits of such linkages. An important question is whether corridors in Australia will build the adaptive capacity of our plants and animals to deal with the expected impacts of a changing climate.

Unlike the northern hemisphere examples, there is growing opinion locally that corridors will not enable most Australian plants and animals to adapt to the changes in climate that are occurring now, and that have been forecast for the future. That is, there is evidence that some Australian plants and animals may be responding in less predictive ways to climate change than those served by the creation of migratory pathways. Indeed, recent research emerging out of Western Australia indicates that the geographic range of some species contracted to areas of more favourable habitat during past climate extremes. While some contiguous connection between remnant patches of vegetation will be extremely useful for our plants and animals, such as altitudinal corridors that capture representative populations of species with habitat niches that vary with elevation, this research challenges the science behind, and emphasis placed on, large scale corridor conservation projects in Australia.

In reality, a combination of little evidence to support widespread species migration in response to past climate oscillations, that Australia is a relatively flat continent and any latitudinal migration would had to have occurred over vast distances, and that this country does not have large iconic migratory fauna like North America or Europe indicates that corridors will not promote adaptation to changes in climate in Australia.

The sheer speed of changes in climate that are occurring now prohibit adaptation. At Berkeley, researchers studied the velocity of climate change in Nevada and California and estimated that plants and animals must travel 6km/yr in flatter regions (normally northwards) and 60m/yr vertically in mountainous areas to keep pace with the changes in temperature already being observed. 2100 projections for nearly 500 protected areas in the San Francisco Bay area (all >100ha) found that only eight will *experience temperatures within their currently observed range*.

There is no doubt that corridors are a politically attractive means of garnering and directing conservation investment. Private conservation groups have been using iconic species and landscapes to build philanthropic support for land purchases they consider important, and the marketing of large corridor projects is built around similar strategies. But the pool of funding for new National Park acquisitions is small. It's also a public investment, and justifiably the public expect that decisions made in regard to new protected area acquisitions are based on the best available science.

THE HOPE CHARTER

HOPE encourages people to take responsibility for their relationship with the environment in their daily lives.

HOPE members have the following aims:

- to use a little as possible of energy and resources.
- to create minimal pollution, both directly and indirectly;
- to prefer, in general, renewable to non-renewable, natural to manufactured, and local to imported; and
- to support and promote 'best practice' natural resource management and landcare activities.

HOPE encourages people:

- to view environmental problems in their local, economic and global context.
- to use what is already there, making the most of existing resources, technology and community networks; and
- to create, communicate and celebrate lifestyles which reduce consumption and improve quality of life.

While **HOPE** endorses individual action, it also encourages people to act together in their local community, and in society as a whole, to further these aims.

HOPE is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any political party.

Queensland News

Congratulations to Green Journey

Early November Green Journey was recognised at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council's Froggies Awards for making an important contribution to the environment and sustainability on the Sunshine Coast. More information on Green Journey is available at <http://www.greenjourney.com.au/> .

Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC)

Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) is the peak, independent body for land care in Queensland, representing the interests of member groups in the natural resource management (NRM) volunteer sector at all levels of government.

Our core functions are:

- **Represent** the interests of NRM volunteer groups throughout 11 regions in Qld;
- **Advocate** on behalf of NRM volunteers at all tiers of decision making, thus ensuring their contribution to the environmental health of Qld is a key consideration in policy development;
- **Network** between NRM volunteer groups to achieve effective links with government and industry;
- **Promote** the on-ground achievements of volunteer NRM groups and individuals; and
- Provide **Insurance** to protect NRM volunteers and Associations in QLD.

QWaLC membership is free and open to both NRM groups and individuals.

It has recently had a new Executive Officer (Richard Murphy) and Community Relations Officer (Anna Mirams) commence employment in the organisation with both their goals seeking to improve communications and support to the network of groups. Whilst the primary role of QWALC is to act as an independent voice for volunteers it is equally important we provide constructive support in ensuring the long term sustainability of our diverse range of groups and provide the necessary tools and information to support and enhance capacity to carry out local work. It is expected that the QWALC website will have some significant work carried out on it over the next month making it more interactive and the primary source of information in supplying the most up-to-date information. Stay tuned.

Grow Local is a Queensland Conservation Council campaign aimed at increasing the production and consumption of locally grown food in Southeast Queensland. The campaign, which was launched on 8th October 2008, is about getting people involved in growing food locally in back yards and community gardens. It's about understanding where our food comes from and supporting local farmers. The Grow Local campaign will help to reduce food miles and cut greenhouse emissions while reconnecting people with their local landscape to ensure Queensland has healthy, active communities.

The Grow Local campaign hopes to achieve the following goals:

- increase the number of community gardens in Southeast Queensland;
- support community gardens to become hubs for the dissemination of information, community extension and neighbourhood outreach services;
- develop a community outreach program to support backyard gardeners, street communities and neighbourhood partnerships;
- improve the planning and policy environment to support and enhance local food production opportunities;
- raise the profile of locally grown produce through innovative marketing and PR initiatives.

The Grow Local website contains a wealth of information about growing your own food, either at home or in a community garden. It lists the locations of community gardens, farmer's markets and

community supported agriculture schemes, and has a calendar of events related to sustainable local food production. The site also has links to a range of on-line resources covering local food production, sustainability and gardening. Facilities are provided to subscribe to both the *Grow Local* newsletter and the Queensland Conservation Council *Connection* newsletter.

For further information: <http://www.grow-local.com.au/>

Landcare Queensland

Mission:

Our mission is to support locally motivated people who come together to make a difference to their environment through good land management initiatives. Landcare Queensland provides training, resources and support for the landcare movement in Queensland.

Vision

Our vision is for a Queensland where people work together to manage water, land and biodiversity across the state.

What we do

We provide training, resources and funding for more than 30,000 people involved in Landcare and community based natural resource management throughout Queensland. We do this through:

- Providing capacity development products for landcare volunteers and members; and key stakeholder groups, often by working in partnership with regional NRM groups or local governments;
- Creating and enhancing awareness about landcare and related issues throughout the state;
- Working to grow the annual Queensland Landcare Conference by managing sponsorship and communication activities as well as supporting the host organisation;
- Broadening the frequency and total value of individual donations to landcare in Queensland;
- Increasing the financial commitment of the corporate sector to landcare in Queensland; and
- Helping landcare and community natural resource management groups become financially independent from government grants.

Things that Landcare Groups do include:

- Revegetating areas affected by salinity and erosion;
 - Helping people with long term planning for their farms;
 - Educating our children about the land and sustainability;
 - Fencing off important bushland to protect from agricultural pressure;
 - Helping to repair and protect urban creeks and bushland;
 - Monitoring water quality in our rivers and streams;
 - Helping developers manage the land sustainability and
 - Working with governments to improve policies and legislation
-

Northey Street City Farm - Permaculture in the Heart of Brisbane.

Northey Street City Farm is a non-profit community organization situated on the banks of Breakfast Creek in Windsor, Brisbane. The four hectare farm was established in April 1994 and now contains more than 1500 exotic and native fruit trees, bush-tucker plants, shrubs and ground covers. It also contains a plant nursery and a number of allotment garden plots for members who do not have access to a garden of their own.

The mission of the farm is to create a working model of a cooperative, community based urban permaculture farm which demonstrates, promotes, educates and advocates environmental and economic sustainability in a healthy, diverse and supportive community. The farm has been developed

as a demonstration site for people of all ages to enjoy and learn the principles of permaculture through practical, hands on experience. Regular workshops and courses are held covering a range of topics relevant to sustainable living, well-being, organic gardening and permaculture.

Sunday markets are held at the farm, selling a wide range of fresh organically-certified produce including fruit, vegetables, breads, meat, dairy, drygoods and preserves. A cafe is open to provide breakfast, free workshops are held and art activities and a play area are provided for the kids.

Membership for individuals is \$30 per annum, with significant discounts for students, concession card holders, families and for longer term or life membership.

The Northey Street City Farm website contains:

- News and a calendar of coming events
- Details of farm tours, courses and workshops
- A photo gallery of farm activities and recent events
- Specials available from the farm's plant nursery
- Order form for 'Share' the farm's recipe book with some on-line sample pages
- Application form to join the Northey Street City Farm
- A registration form to receive the monthly email updates
- Links to some additional sustainability websites

Further information: <http://www.northeastcityfarm.org.au>

Wildlife Queensland's Quoll Seekers Network

The spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) is Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial on the mainland and occurs in a patchy distribution across Queensland. They are endangered nationally (*Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*), and Vulnerable under Queensland legislation (*Queensland Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1992*).

The major threats to quolls include loss and fragmentation of habitat, fire, cars, competition and predation from introduced animals, a shortfall in prey species, poison baits, as well as deliberate killings on properties particularly around poultry pens.

The Quoll Seekers Network was established in 2001 to raise community awareness, gather information on persisting populations and achieve good conservation outcomes for their protection. To achieve this, we conduct field and community surveys, map sighting records, engage with local councils and share knowledge through education programs.

There have been some confirmed quoll sightings in the Toowoomba region, and we would like your help to determine the extent of the local population and the range within which they may be dispersing.

If you have seen a quoll, please complete our online quoll sighting report:

<http://www.wildlife.org.au/projects/quolls/image/quollform.pdf>

If you would like to join the QSN, membership is free and you will receive regular Network News, merchandise discounts, as well as prior notification of workshops and volunteer opportunities. Further information can be found on our website at www.wildlife.org.au/quollseekers

National News

[Will ocean life have time to adapt to climate change?](#)

Direct effects of climate warming on biodiversity pose a serious conservation challenge for marine life, according to new research just published in the peer-reviewed journal *Science*.¹ The research concludes that marine life may need to relocate and readjust faster than life on land, challenging the idea that ocean life could respond more gradually to climate change than land species due to slower warming in the oceans.

[From electric trucks to first carbon-neutral Australian city](#)

The City of Sydney has become the first council in Australia to achieve formal certification as carbon-neutral. At the same time, the council has announced a tender for up to 12 new electric car charging stations to be installed across Sydney next year.

[Indigenous rangers help protect west Kimberley waterways](#)

The Western Australian government has partnered with local Indigenous rangers to target an infestation of a tropical wild plant variety that has invaded the Kimberley's King Leopold Ranges Conservation Park.

[Australian science joins global effort to transform food system](#)

A major transformation in the food system is needed to address future threats to food security according to experts from some of the world's leading science organisations.

[ABC's new CSG site](#)

The ABC has mapped every coal seam gas well in the country and compiled a bank of information on a new website available. The site explores the cumulative impacts of coal seam gas activities in Australia, including the amount of water used to produce CSG and the consequences for salinity and greenhouse gas emissions. ABC journalist and site creator Wendy Carlisle says people can look up a well by place name or postcode.

"This industry has, you know, arisen out of almost nowhere in the last decade" she said. "There is no site you can go to which presents to you in a readily understandable way the extent of the industry as it currently stands. "(There's) information about how much water may be extracted, how much salt could be extracted and what the greenhouse gas footprint of those activities are likely to be."

Centroc's Shiny Halo

The Shiny Halo is an initiative to encourage action for a more resilient future in Central NSW. It comprises a series of activities that encourage more sustainable and resilient behaviours.

The Shiny Halo Blog is one of these activities. It is an opportunity for our community to share and find useful ideas, experiences and inspiration. Each week Centroc puts up new articles about the inspiring and often groundbreaking actions being taken by Councils, Businesses, Community Groups, Organisations, Schools and Individuals in Central NSW.

Shiny Halo St is a pilot initiative with the businesses of Millthorpe. Centroc has teamed up with the Millthorpe Business Committee to design a program to help small businesses become more sustainable. Centroc will work with Millthorpe businesses to become more energy efficient, more water efficient, develop individual business worm farming facilities for the management of green waste and to help make some of the Millthorpe community events more sustainable.

In Centroc's Tree Xchange Project we turn the comments and actions submitted to the Shiny Halo blog in to trees. To date we have planted over 1000 trees around the Centroc region in partnership with our councils and their communities.

Last year we held the inaugural Shiny Halo Awards which rewarded the actions of all the categories in the Shiny Halo Blog. Check out the blog at <http://centroc.com.au/shinyhalo/> All of the Shiny Halo activities are part of Centroc's That's a Good Idea! Climate Adaptation program. This program is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust.

drumMUSTER and **ChemClear** are important industry stewardship programs that are part of the Industry Waste Reduction Scheme (IWRS). Agsafe Limited is contracted by AgStewardship Australia who manage the levies collected under the IWRS. The IWRS is funded by a levy on eligible non-returnable farm chemical containers over 1 litre or kilogram in content from participating chemical manufacturers. **drumMUSTER** is the national program for the collection and recycling of empty, cleaned, non-returnable metal and plastic agvet chemical containers. Chemical users throughout Australia are encouraged to deliver their empty, cleaned containers for inspection and acceptance at their local **drumMUSTER** collection site at one of over 700 **drumMUSTER** sites nationally. **drumMUSTER** product is recycled into useful everyday items such as street signs, irrigation piping, plant stakes and outdoor furniture.

drumMUSTER provides:

- an environmentally responsible solution for chemical users to the problem of disposing their empty chemical containers;
- helps property owners to keep their property clean of potential contamination;
- encourages good farming practice and meets Quality Assurance obligations; and
- supports the preservation of the wider environment.

For more information visit www.drummuster.com.au

ChemClear[®] is the national program for the collection and disposal of unwanted currently registered agvet chemicals. The objective of the program is to minimise the accumulation of unwanted agvet chemicals held in storage which may create potential risks to the environment, public health and trade.

There are two categories of agvet chemicals **ChemClear**[®] collects:

Group 1 chemicals are currently registered products manufactured by participating companies signed to the Industry Waste Reduction Agreement. These products are collected **free of charge**.

Group 2 chemicals are products manufactured by non participating companies, or, deregistered, unknown, mixed or out of date products. A per litre/kilogram fee for disposal applies.

Registrations are essential and can be made at www.chemclear.com.au or 1800 008 182

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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 - Was \$34.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling, now only \$20.00 inclusive.

World News

Humane Society International - 2011 in review

The years fly past so quickly that the staff at HSI hardly have time to draw breath - there is always so much to do for so many animals and natural places. As always the time represents a period of successes and frustrations, but also essential work that carries on only because of your determined support.

The campaigns and programs shown in the HIS Campaign Report 2011 highlights just some of the work in which we engage. Over the past 18 months for example, HSI has directed over \$800,000 to approximately 77 projects all over the world.

HSI was particularly disappointed this year to discover the re-emergence of fur apparel containing dog fur in retail shops everywhere and immediately had Australia's best scientists test the garments for canid hairs. That dog fur was indeed back on sale again was confirmed, triggering our new campaign for action by Customs and very broad coverage in the media. We are still fighting on this front!

Besides our work on protecting dolphins and sea lions, HSI has maintained its priority focus on the conservation of albatross and petrel species killed in fishing operations around Australia and globally. It is thought that between 160,000 and in excess of 320,000 seabirds are killed every year! HSI is committed to stopping this atrocity.

Our marine efforts are equally matched by our programs to protect wildlife habitats on land, helping to achieve two land-mark protections this year, with the legal listing of 3.3 million acres of threatened, and nearly 50 million heritage acres in the West Kimberley. Along with our climate change work here and internationally, this all helps to keep carbon in the ground!

A final thankyou to you all for your unstinting support throughout the year, and we very much look forward to working with you again as we head into 2012 and continue our fight for the animals and their environment.

[Auditing the Earth's sea-level rise and energy budgets](#)

An international team of scientists has accounted for all contributions to global sea-level rise in a study that balances the sea-level rise 'budget' and explains the observed rise over recent decades.

[Eco-tourism does its bit to help save the Sumatran Orangutan](#)

The Sumatran Orangutan is critically endangered. In 2004, between 4000 and 6000 lived in the wild in Sumatra, down to less than 14% of its population 60 years ago. Efforts to prevent the extinction of the "man of the forest" is a race against time for conservationists. Awareness of the urgency to save these animals is increasing as more travellers opt for eco-tours to Sumatra.

[Earth Charter submits recommendations to Rio+20 Zero Draft](#)

The Earth Charter Initiative produced a series of recommendations for the UNCSD Rio+20 Compilation Document.

Resources

Web Resources:

[New Online Tools for Wetland Managers on WetlandInfo](#)

Managing some of Queensland's most sensitive and valuable environments has been made easier with new online information for wetlands managers and decision makers available on the [WetlandInfo](#) website. This latest resource includes a new report, [Inventory of Instream Structures Impacting on Ramsar Wetlands](#).

[FeralScan - access resources and report information about feral species in your local area](#)

[FeralScan](#) comprises the RabbitScan, CamelScan, FoxScan, FeralPigScan, MynaScan and ToadScan websites. It has been set-up to support landholders, community groups, and anyone with a feral or pest animal problem to access essential information and resources to help control feral and pest species, and report information about pests in their local area. Importantly, [FeralScan](#) is also reporting the issues communicated by those experiencing feral or pest animal problems across Australia, to provide for the first time a national overview of the extent of feral and pest species and damage caused by these species simultaneously.

Your Green Footprint

In addition to [Measure your Ecological Footprint](#); [Shop Sustainably](#) and [Reduce Waste & Consumption](#), we've added [Be Green at Events](#) to 'Your Green Footprint' to share some new ways you can tread lightly on the planet when participating in events.

EcoEarth

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

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature

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

Magazines:

Sanctuary magazine

[Sanctuary: modern green homes](#) is Australia's only magazine dedicated to sustainable house design. Each quarter, Sanctuary profiles the work of Australia's leading environmental architects and designers, providing inspiration and practical solutions for a sustainable home without compromising on design.

ReNew magazine

[ReNew: technology for a sustainable future](#) is Australia's longest running sustainable technology magazine. We look forward to producing a quality, independent magazine for many years to come with our buyers guides, examples of sustainable homes, DIY projects and Q&A with the ReNew experts.

Book Reviews:

[The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)

Managing Systems at Risk

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The State of Land and Water Resources (SOLAW) is FAO's first flagship publication on the global status of land and water resources. It is an 'advocacy' report, to be published every three to five years, and targeted at senior level decision makers in agriculture as well as in other sectors. [Read more about the book >>](#)

[Handbook of Climate Change and India](#)

Development, Politics and Governance, *edited by Navroz K Dubash*

How do policymakers, businesses and civil society in India approach the challenge of climate change? What do they believe global climate negotiations will achieve and how? And how are Indian political and policy debates internalizing climate change? Relatively little is known globally about internal climate debate in emerging industrializing countries, but what happens in rapidly growing economies like India's will increasingly shape global climate change outcomes. This Handbook brings together prominent voices from India, including policymakers, politicians, business leaders, civil society activists and academics, to build a composite picture of contemporary Indian climate politics and policy.

[Read more about the book >>](#)

Handy Recycling Hints and Tips from Planet Ark

[Test Your Recycling Knowledge](#)

What's the most common recycling mistake? What happens after your recycling is collected? How many times can an aluminium can be recycled? To find out the answers and go into the running to win 1 of 10 Green Prize Packs, all you need to do is take the Recycle Right Quiz. [Start the Quiz...](#)

[Recycle Your Mobile Phone Securely](#)

New research conducted by the mobile phone industry's official recycling program, MobileMuster, has revealed that 76 per cent of Australians would feel more confident recycling their old mobiles if they knew how to delete or save the data stored on them. [Find out how to recycle your mobile securely...](#)

[Cash for Cans](#)

Is your school looking for a new fundraising idea? Why not setup a Cash for Cans collection. They are simple to set up, are great for the environment and we've developed a guide to help you every step of the way. [Find out more...](#)

[This Pen Used to be an Inkjet](#)

Have you ever wondered what your recycled inkjet cartridges are turned into? Well now you know - from the barrel to the cap, even the ink used in the new Enviroliner pen is made from recycled inkjet cartridges. [Find out more and where to buy...](#)

[Can I Recycle that?](#)

Have something that can't go in your household recycling bin, but don't want to throw it out? With a little research you can find a range of great initiatives that will reuse or recycle a number of unusual items, keeping them out of landfill and giving them a new life. [Read on to find out about bikes, bulbs, beds and more...](#)

Poem

Insights unexpected

"Your work is really hard..."

My ten year old son told me unexpectedly
on the way home from the market.

He talked more maturely about me than most adults do
He showed me he knew - the burden that I carry
And the role I try to play.

He told me "You see things differently".

"How?" I asked.

"You see the pieces of the puzzle others don't see;
You see the small stuff and the big picture;
You try to help everyone and help the world spin;
You're a loving caring person who doesn't care for money;
They might see greed, and you see love."

I was stunned... he just smiled,
His belly full of Dutch pancakes and cream,
His mind full of deep thoughts and understanding
Our hearts full of mutual love and admiration...

I must buy him Poffertjes more often!

Neil Davidson, April 2011

Remember, you CAN make a difference!

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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