



**Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.**

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## **HOPE E-news Bulletin 2012 #2 --- 25March 2012**

*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 everyone,*

*Welcome to our second e:news bulletin for 2012. Please take particular notice of the Calendar of Events; the feature article on COOLmob (NT) and the Office News report.*

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**2012: Year of the Farmer** - Australian Year of the Farmer celebrates the hard work of everyone involved in producing, processing, handling and selling products from 136,000 farms across the country. Australian farms and the industries that support them generate more than \$405 billion each year, that's 27% of our GDP.

### **March**

- 31 - [Earth Hour](#)

### **April**

- 14-22 - [Australian Heritage Week](#)
- 18 - [World Heritage Day](#)
- 22 - [Earth Day](#)

### **May**

- 8-10 - [OZ' Water Week 2011](#)
- 14-15 - [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- 14-20 - [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 18 - [International Museum Day](#)
- 18 - [Walk Safely to School Day](#)
- 22 - [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 26 - [National Sorry Day](#)
- 27-3June - [National Reconciliation Week](#)

### **June**

#### **World Environment Day: 5 June 2012**

This year's theme - *Green Economy: Does it include you?* - underpins the concept of an economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. The theme also supports one of the main objectives of the Rio+20 Summit at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development being held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 20 to 22 June 2012.

## Office News

Hi folks,

Wow! What an eventful last 2 months it has been for us here at the HOPE office.

Lots of meetings and events to organise, information displays to staff; and regrettably, a computer mal-function which cost us dearly - more on that later.

Firstly, here's a chronological summary of key matters from February and March:

- New volunteers - welcome to Barry Miller who is assisting with the upgrading of our office procedures; and to Ian Barralet who
- the Schools Sustainability Forum will now be held on Friday 27 April at St Ursula's College, Toowoomba. Funding of \$1,600 has been received from the Qld Dept. of Communities with HOPE contributing a matching amount.
- Meeting with SQIT (Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE) regarding a partnership offer to co-manage (and host) this year's *Pathways to Sustainability Expo*.
  - Investigate RADF funding opportunity to run 3 "Reverse Garbage " workshops at PtoS Expo
- 19/2 - HOPE Ordinary Meeting
- provided a HOPE information display for events at USQ (22/2, 29/2 & 14/3)
- 26/2 - Launch of Environmental Networking Partnership (ENP) program for Toowoomba Region. A big thanks to Toby Hutcheon, QCC, for his presentation and pointers on the role of a Regional Environment Council.
- attended several external events - "How to influence Government Policy" workshop (27/2); "Insurance Obligations and Risk Management" workshop (10/3); and PestSmart Roadshow (16/3)
- 6/3 - HOPE executive meeting
- 10/3 - held a successful Qld State Election "Candidates Forum" at Gowrie Junction. A big thanks to the Toowoomba Coal Mine Action Group (TCMAG) for organising the venue, catering, etc. and to the other partners in this venture - Friends of Felton and Oakey Coal Action Alliance.
- 13/3 - Computer crash due to major problems with motherboard. Purchase new computer, reload software and transfer data files. Back online on 22 March ... hoorah!!
- 21/3 - hosted MDB Plan community information forum in Toowoomba with funding from MDBA and support from DERM and QCC

Secondly, as a consequence of the office computer crash and some corruption of our membership file and e:address book, we'll need everyone to fill out a new Membership/Business Contact Application Form. This form will be issued with this edition of the e:news bulletin.

Lastly, we need more active local/online members/volunteers to help us achieve all that is planned and proposed in 2012 and beyond. Please give the office a call with your offer of assistance.

*Frank Ondrus, President and acting Office Manager- HOPE Inc.*

### 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.

## 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.

## Letter to the Editor

*Dear Editor,*

*It's long been recognised that a major contributor to the problem of climate change is transport, including our overuse of the car. Cars provide a seductive ease of transport, but with a mounting cost to ourselves and to our environment.*

*However, the unfortunate consequences of pollution, increased travel costs, lack of fitness, etc., can be countered at a local level by providing local transport options. In our Toowoomba area, any promotion of walking, cycling and public transport would have the same great benefits as in any urban area of Australia.*

*More specifically to Toowoomba we can promote improved public transport, cycling and walking options. Walking as a regular means of transport would be much easier if footpaths were more common and afterhours and weekend public bus services would be much welcomed. Bicycle use can be encouraged by increasing the provision of safe secure bike parking and expanding the bike lane network.*

*The benefits of reduced dependence on the car are multiple, and they all add up to increased quality of life for human beings and environmental aid for the rest of the earth!*

*Ian Barralet (Toowoomba)*

## Date Claimers

[2012 Queensland State Landcare Conference, 28 - 30 June Brisbane](#)

Landcare Queensland and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) will be jointly hosting the 2012 Queensland State Landcare Conference on 28, 29 and 30 June at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The theme this year is 'Paddocks, Backyards and Balconies ... Together, Making a Difference.' To find out more visit the [conference website](#).

## September

The [2012 Government Sustainability Conference](#) being held in Melbourne on 18-19 September 2012, provides local, state and federal government professionals and representatives of other public sector agencies with comprehensive analysis and advice about how to ingrain environmentally sustainable policies and practices within their organisations and the communities they serve.

## Feature Article



### **COOLmob, Sustainable Living Program**

COOLmob is a community based, sustainable living program in the Northern Territory that developed from the National Cool Communities Program which commenced in 2002.

Its mission is **"To help and inspire the community to live sustainably and reduce their green house gas emissions."**

The COOLmob Team of sustainable living experts and energy auditors work to promote and educate the whole community to reduce their carbon footprint. They work to drive behaviour change in people's use of power, water, transport and recycling; and to encourage reduction of food miles and unnecessary consumption. Another aspect of COOLmob's work is to encourage good tropical building design and town planning, to promote energy efficient products and challenge the Government to implement more sustainability practices in home, work and business.

COOLmob Top End, (there is also a COOLmob Alice Springs program), is a program of the NT Environment Centre. It operates from a Darwin office but extends its work to the Darwin rural area and Katherine.

COOLmob has a facebook page and a comprehensive web site containing a diverse range of up to date information on sustainable living. People can order household energy, water and vehicle assessments, request a quotation for special product offers and download COOLmob information booklets on Design, Hardware and Habits for the Tropics. COOLmob serves the role of being a one-stop shop for trusted information about sustainable practices, products and rebates.

COOLmob continually evaluates its programs, researches and tests products, promotes sustainable product deals (such as PV roof installations) and partners with community groups, Councils and Government Departments. For example, COOLmob holds stalls for new arrivals to access information at Defence Fun Days, supports community garden projects, promotes new energy efficient products and discount prices for specific items.

COOLmob works with the local media writing stories for magazines, doing radio and TV interviews, writing press releases, conducting school talks and holding stalls at markets and festivals. There is also a bimonthly e-newsletter that is emailed free to COOLmob households and interested people.

Other projects conducted by COOLmob include 'walk through' energy audits of Public Benevolent Institutions and apartment blocks and units. In these situations COOLmob has been able to recommend hardware improvements and building modifications that result in large power savings for body corporates. The program also assists individual apartment households to move towards more sustainable practices through the development of a community of people who work together to reduce their overall consumption. A similar program is being developed for sustainable streets and precincts.

The introduction of a carbon price will provide funding for COOLmob to seek to work with welfare agencies to further assist low income earners to reduce their power and water costs.

The concept of green living is now mainstream, so COOLmob's work has expanded and grown to tackle the increasing challenges faced in trying to reduce the carbon footprint of our society.

More information can be found at: [www.coolmob.org](http://www.coolmob.org)

## Mutual Support Partners News

### The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe

The Self-Sufficiency Shoppe is a home-based enterprise encouraging and educating people about 'using natural, safe alternatives' and the subsequent benefits:

- less impact on the planet
- less chemicals
- saving money
- respect for other living beings

The Shoppe works through three main avenues:

- [publications](#)
- [living in Harmony with the Planet Workshops](#)
- Shoppe Newsletters

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**Friends of South East Queensland (FOSEQ)** was informally established in 2000 and progressively became more sophisticated as its current day role emerged as advocating for positive sustainable development in the highest population growth region in Australia. It is now registered under an international charity (CHEC), with recognition from Federal government and state government for legal purposes. Our region spans Noosa to Gold Coast, Toowoomba to Bay Islands, includes 6 cities, high value soils and food production areas, and is similar size to our benchmarking partner - The Netherlands.

#### *Our Founding principles:*

1. Respect and care for community life and lifestyles in South East Queensland.
2. Respect and care for ecological integrity & the natural systems on which our healthy life depend
3. Social and economic justice with transparency
4. Democracy where individuals have a voice and conflicts are seen to be resolved through informed decision making.

#### *What do friends do?*

1. Share research, ideas, news and **inform our citizens**
2. Appreciate our **culture and identity** in order to preserve it
3. Develop community **policy from analysis**
4. **Evaluate** sustainability (international standards performance indicators)
5. Facilitate a **watchdog** role on government decisions
6. Facilitate **third party actions** on behalf of disadvantaged citizens

During 2005 to 2012, FoSEQ has been able to influence preventative mechanisms in planning to avoid harm and accumulated negative impacts in our cities and rural areas. These include SEQ regional plan that legally underpins development, state planning policies for high impact and hazardous industries, and policies so toxic industries do not impose upon or restrict the liberty and livelihoods of neighbours as a result of airborne emissions, noise, contaminants and waste into waterways (and riparian soils) accumulating into our marine parks in Morton Bay. (Davis 2003; Environmental Defenders Office 2009; Hawke 1997; Jian Liu et al. 2011; Scott & Robert Jack Pagan 1999)

## Queensland News

### QLD Waste Educators Working Group (QWEG)

**What is QWEG?** The Queensland Waste Educators Group (QWEG) is a peak group of waste educators providing support, professional development and networking opportunities for individuals involved in the waste industry. Members of the group include waste educators working on behalf of local and state government, consultancies, industry, educational facilities and waste contractors addressing issues associated with sustainable waste management.

QWEG is a working group of the QLD branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) and are represented by a committee member in QLD WMAA Branch monthly meetings and in the National Waste Educators Division (NWED).

QWEG members join the group through networking or working in a waste education or promotional role. Contact details for the current QWEG committee are listed on the [WMAA member portal](#), along with the meeting agendas, minutes and bi-monthly Wrap-Ups.

QWEG meets quarterly. Meetings are hosted by educators at a range of venues across SE QLD. Members unable to attend the meetings, including those from central, northern and regional QLD are invited to teleconference into the quarterly meetings and are emailed all meeting agendas and minutes. QWEG meetings are a valuable forum for networking and discussion and for sharing information on government, non-government and industry waste programs. Members are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible and to participate in the discussion and decision-making process. QWEG welcomes new members making the group relevant to the needs of waste educators and other professional group members, and to assist in building and strengthening links across all aspects of the waste industry.

**Purpose** The coordination of a unified approach to community education and engagement in sustainable waste management and waste minimisation issues.

#### **Goals:**

1. Network and support group to communicate best practice waste education
2. Ensure waste education is an integral part of public policy
3. Enhance the ability of waste educators to deliver best practice waste education
4. Raise the profile of the role of educators and waste education in promoting waste minimisation and reduction of consumption strategies to ensure education is integrated into all aspects of the waste management/ and resource recovery sector state-wide and across Australia

#### *Advertisement*

### **2012 National Environmental Grants Guide Now Available**

Hot off the press! Yarramine Environmental's annual directory lists grant and funding opportunities available from the Australian and State Governments, corporate giving programs as well as the major Australian philanthropic funds and trusts. The handy glove box sized (A5) Guide will prove to be a convenient resource for community environment and Landcare groups as well as regional NRM bodies, Councils and others when seeking funds to assist with a variety of their environmental improvement and natural resource management projects. Designed to present grant information to readers in an easy to access manner, the Guide includes information on how much funding is available for each grant opportunity, how to apply and who is eligible. Website links are also provided along with useful contact details (where available) to help readers obtain further information. A sample listing from the 2012 edition - which contains over 200 listings - as well as a mail/fax order form is available for download from the consultancy's website - [www.yarramine.com.au](http://www.yarramine.com.au). Guides cost \$39.95 each and this includes postage and handling. For general information about Yarramine Environmental's Grants Guide please contact Amanda Kimball on (07) 4638 2442 or at [grantsguide@yarramine.com.au](mailto:grantsguide@yarramine.com.au)

## National News

### [Ethical Shopping? It's easier than you think!](#)

It's easy to shop ethically when you're at a farmer's market.

Now, with the help of two fantastic guides, it's easy to shop ethically at the supermarket and the fishmongers too.

### [Environmental battles for 2012](#)

A seasoned environmental campaigner, Jeff Angel (Total Environment Centre, Sydney, NSW) surveys the likely environmental battle grounds for 2012.

### [Passive design principles](#)

Maximise the energy efficiency of your house all year round by using the basic principles of passive design.

### **Repower your favourite hangout**

Australian Youth Climate Coalition has launched a campaign targeted at people just like you and me. It aims to repower Australia one café, pub, school and community venue at a time. They want communities to host 100 events around the country before July. Holding a Repower event is simple: find a local venue, then hold a fundraiser and put the money towards solar panels on the roof, buying green power or investing in energy efficiency. One group in Canberra raised \$10,000 to repower an IGA supermarket and in Brisbane a bowls club has been repowered. More at:

<http://repower.aycc.org.au/events>.

### [Not a level playing field for wind power](#)

Should individuals who live within two kilometers of a proposed wind farm be granted the right to veto the development? There's no equivalent right for coal fired power stations or coal seam gas developments. This is what NSW is proposing. By Neil Perry, University of Western Sydney

### [The Green Building Council of Australia welcomes new rating system for sustainable infrastructure](#)

The [Australian Green Infrastructure Council](#) (AGIC) has launched the Infrastructure Sustainability Rating Scheme, comprised of a rating tool, assessment process and education and training programs.

### [Update Australia's dietary guidelines to consider sustainability](#)

When eating for health and the environment, not all foods are created equal. The consumption of seafood has led to the over-exploitation of three quarters of the world's oceans. Meat and dairy foods require more water, energy and phosphorus to produce and have higher greenhouse gas emissions compared to plant foods.

### [The Evolution of Events - Sustainable Event Management](#)

Sustainable Events are events - large or small - which incorporate sustainable development principles such as the use of fair trade and locally sourced produce, the use of recycled and recyclable products, and the correct management of waste and rubbish. It may sound like common sense, but there are still many events which don't consider these issues, falling back instead on old, environmentally unfriendly products or methods.

### **Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland**

[Focus on Wildlife: Updates on current conservation news, views and info](#)

## World News

Joel Crawford of [Carfree Cities](#) writes: "Cities in the modern era have been overrun by cars and trucks. Streets have been stolen from human uses by invasive street users. Not only is this method unlikely to be sustained into the future, it also robs society of some of its most important public spaces. Carfree cities are a delightful solution to many different problems at once." ... ..have a look at [his short film](#) that bangs these points home.

### [Earth Day 2012](#)

On April 22, more than one billion people around the globe will participate in [Earth Day 2012](#) and help Mobilise the Earth™. Earth Day Network wants Earth Day 2012 to [Mobilize the Earth](#) around issues related to sustainability. Our 2012 campaigns are designed to provide people with the opportunity to unite their voices in a call for a sustainable future and direct them towards quantifiable outcomes. Your event is crucial in helping reach this goal as well as achieving [A Billion Acts of Green®](#) before the [Rio+20 Earth Summit](#) in June 2012.

### [Earth Debates](#)

Discuss the big issues for the Earth Summit 2012, from how to produce enough food sustainably for the growing world population, to how to achieve a green economy.

### [Low Carbon Future Cities - Website online now](#)

Together with six scientific partners from China, the German Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy implements the Sino-German research project "Low Carbon Future Cities" (LCFC). The project is funded by the German Stiftung Mercator and addresses the need for urban climate policy in an integrated and participatory approach. It develops long-term urban low carbon strategies which bring together the concepts of low-carbon, resource efficiency and adaptation to climate change.

The project will scientifically explore the Low Carbon Future City concept in two case studies: the German region of Düsseldorf+ and the Chinese city of Wuxi. Both cities are aspiring to lower their environmental footprint and increase their resilience by developing and implementing an integrated climate strategy.

The scientific analysis is supplemented with a stakeholder dialogue; the first Sino-German Stakeholder Forum took place in October 2011. The rationale of the dialogue is to foster Sino-German mutual learning and disseminate the outcomes of the research to decision-makers from politics, industry and civil society in order to ensure a strong impact.

More information on the project, outcomes and the First Sino-German Stakeholder Forum can be found on our project website: <http://www.lowcarbonfuture.net>

### [Rio+20 Making it Happen](#)

200 million people are unemployed during the global economic recession; however 1.3 billion do not earn enough to lift themselves and their dependents out of poverty. As job creation remains a vital part of economic recovery, green and decent jobs can play a critical role in protecting the environment, promoting social inclusion and aiding in a transition to a low-carbon economy. In Volume 3, Issue 2, the Rio+20: Making it Happen newsletter focuses on jobs, one of the seven priority issues that the Conference will address. Also in this issue: approaching deadlines, the launch of the 2011 World Youth Report, an e-Discussion with ECOSOC, news from Major Groups, and upcoming events.

## Resources

### Web Resources:

#### [National Water Planning Resource Goes Online](#)

A [new interactive web resource](#) has been launched by the National Water Commission to help people easily access information on the status of water planning across Australia. This online web application, based on the inaugural report National Water Planning Report Card 2011, provides a summary of the status of water plans across Australia, including the quality of existing water plans, their implementation, and areas for future improvement.

The [NRM knowledge online](#) repository is designed as an open access digital archive for publicly funded information derived from Australian Government investments in natural resource management activities. It has been developed to be compliant with the Open Archives Initiative interoperability standards and to deliver on the Australian Government's commitment to providing open access to publicly funded information.

#### **Australian Weed Identification Tool Now Available On-Line**

[The key to Environmental Weeds of Australia](#), previously only distributed as a [DVD](#), is now [available for free online](#), courtesy of Biosecurity Queensland. This interactive identification and information resource for over 1000 invasive plants is an invaluable resource for all those involved with research, training and management of environmental weeds in Australia, especially State and local weed control officers, Bushcare and Landcare volunteers.

#### **[The Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment \(ICPEN\)](#)**

INCPEN is a research organisation in the UK, which draws together an influential group of companies who share a vision of the future where all production, distribution, and consumption are sustainable. The organisation has a wide range of publications and fact sheets available from their website. Described below are two of many:

#### **[Understanding Packaging](#)**

This booklet summarizes the findings on the packaging of the five case study products (i.e., chilled and frozen fish, computer monitor, liquid laundry products and skin care products and fragrances) and all the factors influencing the choice of packaging made by manufacturers. The research was commissioned by INCPEN (the Industry Council for Packaging & the Environment) to determine the environmental and social impacts of packaging. Understanding packaging involves protection, information, convenience, public perception, as well as change and innovation.

#### **[Table for One: the energy cost to feed one person.](#)**

This publication provides the background data from an extensive piece of research carried out by Dr. Jan Kooijman, a leading Dutch expert on food supply systems in 1995. It was commissioned by INCPEN (the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment) to understand the material and energy requirements along the food supply chain; in particular, how those needs vary across the supply chain. The main source of information is the UK government's National Food Survey which has reported household weekly food consumption since 1940. It provides details of the 18 different groups of food and shows where energy use is greatest and therefore the "hotspots" where one should focus to reduce energy use. These food groups include: bread, cereals, cheese, eggs, fats/oils, fish, fruit (fresh), fruit produce, potatoes, meat, milk, alcohol, soft drinks, tea and coffee, snacks, sugar, and vegetables. It also presents data on the purchased quantities of food and drink of UK households in 1994 and 2007, as well as the estimated food energy levels by food sector, using representative foods.

## Book/Report Reviews:

### [Climate Change in Oceania, special issue of Pacific Conservation Biology](#)

The most recent issue of [Pacific Conservation Biology](#) is a special issue on climate change in Oceania.

Articles include:

- *Is Australia ready for assisted colonization? Policy changes required to facilitate translocations under climate change* by Burbidge et al.
- *What hope for biodiversity in the face of anthropogenic climate change in Oceania* by Kingsford and Watson.
- *Climate change, variability and conservation impacts in Australia* by Prowse and Brook.
- *Climate change impacts on the terrestrial biodiversity and carbon stocks of Oceania* by Wardell-Johnson et al.
- *Climate change in Oceania - A synthesis of biodiversity impacts and adaptations* by Kingsford and Watson.

View full table of contents [here](#).

### [Water: Science and Solutions for Australia](#)

The CSIRO publication [Water: Science and Solutions for Australia](#) provides the latest information the status of Australia's water resources and their future prospects, the many values we hold for water, and the potential for using water more effectively to meet the growing demands of cities, farmers, industries, and the environment. This is a free book available in two electronic formats: PDF which is optimised for reading on a computer screen, and as an eBook format which is optimised for use with mobile and specific eReader devices. Hard copies of the book can also be purchased.

### **State of the Climate 2012—updated CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology paper**

An updated 'State of the Climate 2012' paper has been released by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. The paper provides a summary of observations of Australia's climate and gives an analysis of the factors that influence it. It shows that there has been a multi-decadal warming trend over Australia's land and oceans, an increase in record hot days, a decrease in record cold days across the country, a decrease in rainfall in southwest and southeast Australia, an increase in global sea level, and increases in global greenhouse gas concentrations.

To download a copy of the paper see the CSIRO website:

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Outcomes/Climate/Understanding/State-of-the-Climite-2012.aspx>

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*Remember, you CAN make a difference!*

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