



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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HOPE E-news Bulletin, 13 July 2009

Hi,

Welcome to another edition of our e-news bulletin. How is everyone going with saving energy? There are plenty of little things you can do to save some electricity and a bit of cash (see our 'helpful hints' section at the end of this bulletin; and on our website). For those of you living in Queensland, have you had the State Government's *\$50 home service* to your house, and are you noticing a difference? Please let us know and we can share your story with our readers as to inspire them. If you or anyone you know would like more information on energy conservation check out the program for our information sessions and workshops below.

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

Office news

1. We have had reports that the email address office@hopeaustralia.org.au has been bouncing! For those encountering this problem, please use fondrus@bigpond.net.au.
2. A big thanks to The Bugle (Regional NRM newsletter) for publishing an article on the *Low Carbon Diet* initiative.
3. HOPE welcomes Kathryn Hardwick-Franco, Regional Volunteer Coordinator for the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board, South Australia. Thanks for promoting HOPE and its activities through your network.
4. **Our next group meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday 15 July, Groom Park Hall, Neil Street, Toowoomba - after the LCD information session. Your attendance would be appreciated**
5. LCD events - Volunteers are required to help set-up this Wednesday's information session and workshop. If you can assist, please be at Groom Park Hall around 9am; and St. James Community Hall around 3pm.

ADVERTISEMENT

Yarramine Environmental is pleased to introduce a new service for the households of Toowoomba and surrounds. Make your home sustainable - save money, save the environment and live better. Get a **Home Sustainability Assessment** today, priced from just \$85. Our consultant will visit your home to discuss opportunities for sustainability improvements. You will receive on the spot advice, plus a written report tailored specially to your home after our visit. For more information go to <http://www.yarramineconsulting.com.au/>

Low Carbon Diet project and related news

LCD project update

Hello there,

You are invited to attend HOPE's free workshops and information sessions on the Low Carbon Diet program. The LCD program aims to provide practical measures to reduce household electricity usage - thus saving money, energy and the environment.

Your attendance and that of your work colleagues /clients/members at these events will show your support for HOPE and its efforts to promote sustainable living practices.

Prospective attendees are asked to RSVP to HOPE office on phone 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustrlia.org.au to assist with catering and supply of handout materials.

Yours truly,

Frank Ondrus, President - HOPE Inc.

Workshops schedule

The two-hour workshops will go through the principles of the 30-day Low Carbon Diet program which aims to help residents to substantially reduce their household carbon emissions. During the workshop, we will be looking at each room in a house and showing how simple actions like turning off appliances at the wall can save enormous amounts of energy.

Ms Samantha Morris of Wombat Creative will facilitate the series of workshops. Samantha can be contacted on 0421 709 519.

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| 15 July | Workshop (#1) - 4pm at St James Community Hall (Cnr Mort & Russell Sts) |
| 26 August | Workshop (#2) - 2pm at Groom Park Hall, Neil St. (opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral) |
| 26 August | Workshop (#3) - 7pm at St James Community Hall (Cnr Mort & Russell Sts) |
| 16 September | Workshop (#4) - 2pm at Groom Park Hall, Neil St. (opposite St. Patrick's Cathedral) |
| 16 September | Workshop (#5) - 7pm at St James Community Hall (Cnr Mort & Russell Sts) |

Information Sessions schedule

The information sessions will present overviews of the Low Carbon Diet - Samantha Morris / Andrew Nicholson; Toowoomba's sustainable house - Louise Mayne; Toowoomba Region Council's environment portfolio - Cr Bill Cahill; retrofitting of St James Community Hall - Rev Gary Harch; and Home Sustainability Assessments - Nigel Kimball, Yarramine Environmental.

Related climate news

Registrations are now open for the **2009 Queensland Community Climate Summit**. The Qld Community Climate Summit seeks to bring together passionate individuals and groups to create a strong community-led climate movement in Queensland. The Summit is the key meeting space for climate action groups in Queensland, and will provide a unique experience to help craft a Qld community climate network. The Climate Summit will take place over the weekend of the **25th and 26th of July**, from 9am to 5pm. The venue for the Summit is **The University of Queensland**, Brisbane, in the **Innes Room** of the Student Union Building. For more info go to <http://www.climatesummit.org.au/qld>

www.climatechangeaustralia.gov.au - This website is produced by the Federal Government's Department of Climate Change. It covers action being taken by the government to address climate change and also includes useful information on action that can be taken by households and industry to reduce pollution output.

The Topic menu includes information on: The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme; Adapting to climate change; Carbon offsetting; Emissions monitoring; International activities; Land systems; Renewable energy; Reporting and Science.

The News menu includes detailed information such as: Draft regulations and amendments; EITE activities; Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts; the Solar Credits Scheme and many other topics. Accessible through an easy to navigate archive.

Additionally, there is information on the department's budget, job opportunities, and easy access to relevant legislation.

The following items were sourced from ACF Media News

Renewable energy may cost less than coal power

USING more renewable power in Sydney would make electricity bills more affordable, according to a study prepared for the CSIRO that challenges assumptions about cheap coal-fired energy.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/renewable-energy-may-cost-less-than-coal-power-20090702-d6ki.html>

New rules on energy efficiency

INEFFICIENT hot water systems will be phased out and all appliances will be properly labelled under new national energy efficiency stand...

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25725907-5013404,00.html>

Price to pay to save the planet

SOUTH Australians should accept higher energy costs to compensate for polluting the planet, climate change expert Professor Tim Flannery says.

<http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,25725089-2682,00.html>

Al Gore mines a new source of climate-change messengers

THEY are nicknamed Al's Army and they are about to be bolstered by a battalion of new recruits.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/global-warming/al-gore-mines-a-new-source-of-climatechange-messengers-20090705-d98t.html>

General news

The Brolga Project

'The Brolga Project' is an initiative linking final-year university students needing work experience, either paid or unpaid, with businesses, government agencies and not-for-profits who can't find staff in rural and regional Australia. Launched on 6 October 2008 and with a presence in 10 universities, the goal of the project is that given the opportunity to experience the quality of life and career opportunities available in regional areas, the mostly urban-based students will return to the placement business after completing their study, commencing their working life in a rural or regional centre.

Current student expertise encompasses 27 different courses ranging through accounting, aviation, business administration, community development, the environment, marketing, IT and vet science; the project is desperately seeking host agencies to help absorb the 15 students a week who want to participate. If you are in a position to host a student, please get in touch with the Brolga Project by emailing richard@brolgaproject.com.au, calling 07 3366 1005, and more information is available online at <http://www.brolgaproject.com.au>.

Updates on upcoming events

Telling tales of conservation

With the support of the Queensland Government's Q150 funding, Queensland Conservation has undertaken an oral history project capturing the personal stories of Queenslanders who have made a positive difference to Queensland's unique environment. This free storytelling event will be held on **Sunday 19 July**, 12 noon - 4.00 pm at the Queensland Museum Theatre, Cnr Grey and Melbourne Streets, Southbank. It is an unprecedented opportunity for old friends, colleagues and even old adversaries to meet again over shared memories and experiences. 2009 sees Queensland Conservation celebrate its 40th anniversary - a timely reminder of how far Queensland's conservation movement has come - and of the challenges that lay ahead. Our telling tales of conservation event is free for everyone to attend, however numbers are limited. Please RSVP so we can plan ahead for catering. RSVP to sam@wombatcreative.com.au or 07 5538 5109

Moreton Bay Region Sustainable Expo Saturday 22 August held at Caboolture Region Environmental Education Centre, 150 Rowley Rd Burpengary. Featuring celebrity chef Matt Golinski, wildlife expert Ric Natrass, and for the kids there is the Rainbow EcoShow. Also food sampling, exhibits, workshops and lots more. Entry \$2, kids free. Plenty of free parking or catch the free shuttle bus from Burpengary Railway Station. For more info, go to <http://www.creec.org.au> .

Resources

Web resources

<http://www.recyclemybattery.com.au> is a website dedicated to the recycling of used lead acid batteries (ULAB). Lead acid batteries, commonly used in cars, 4WDs, motor-cycles, boats etc, are 96% recyclable. ULABs contain lead, lead compounds, and/or sulphuric acid which are all classed as hazardous waste. Century Yuasa's Australia-wide recycling centre network now makes it easy for you to dispose of your old battery, responsibly. Go to the website to get more detailed information on ULABs, and to find the centre nearest you that will recycle your old batteries for you.

'**A Climate for Change**' is an online community tackling climate change. It is a news and social networking website with a climate twist to it. It is a fun, active community that provides a place for you to share and network with other like-minded souls. Join now, and you can win a great green prize pack! Go to <http://www.oxfam.org.au/campaigns/climate-change/take-action/a-climate-for-change/> .

<http://www.selectororganic.com.au> offers an extensive range of certified organic seeds and many books as well. You can browse through their catalogue and securely order online. Their seeds are the old traditional open pollinated ones, no hybrids, not GMO, and not chemically treated. They even have a large range available in commercial quantities.

Planet Ark has a wide range of **campaigns** going. They are designed so you can make a difference. Whether through recycling more, planting trees for tree-day or changing to energy efficient light globes, small changes to individual behaviour add up to big savings for the environment. Most of the campaigns have their own sites which provide detailed information, and focus on the ways you can make a difference. To check out the campaign pages with a summary of each campaign and links to the campaign sites, go to <http://www.planetark.com/campaigns>

Book reviews from Green Harvest

Successful Gardening in Warm Climates - by Annette McFarlane 2008

Especially recommended for new gardeners

This comprehensive and essential reference will help you establish, create and maintain an attractive and productive garden by taking an organic approach to flower, herb, vegetable and fruit growing,

Australian natives and exotic plants. All climate zones are catered for with practical solutions to the problems that arise in each. Included are chapters on green manure and cover crops, fertilisers and bed preparation, mulching, pest, weed and disease control. (Full colour, 208pp. BS124 \$30.00)

Australian Vegetable Garden – by Clive Blazey 1999

How to grow a year's supply of vegetables in just 43sq m of bed space is only one of the features of this book. Includes information not easily found elsewhere on establishing your vegetable plot, what to plant and when, days to harvest and expected yield for every one of the 200 vegetables covered. (Full colour, 126pp. BA104 \$30.00)

Outdoor Classrooms: A Handbook for School Gardens – by C. Nuttall and J. Millington 2008

A book which lays out practical strategies to transform primary schools and teaching methods so that children will regain the connection to the natural world. Abundant and creative ideas fill this book, written by primary school teachers and permaculture practitioners. It offers a comprehensive plan for developing school gardens, while guiding the teacher through a process from the formation of the idea to linking the learning to the curriculum. Provided are sample unit plans with the goal of taking the entire curriculum outdoors. (168pp. BO112 \$40.00)

For a comprehensive booklist go to <http://www.greenharvest.com.au>. You will find books on just about anything to do with organic gardening.

A tip / helpful hint

A couple of quick tips to reduce your general energy consumption:

- **Switch off at the wall:** Switch appliances off at the wall when you're not using them. Use reminder notes until the practice becomes second nature. The average household pays around \$100 in standby power costs a year.
- **Use powerboards:** Can't reach your powerpoints to switch appliances off? Use powerboards to make powerpoints easier to get to.
- Save \$100 per year by replacing 8 old light bulbs with **CFLs** (Compact Fluorescent Lights).

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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