



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
PO Box 6118, Toowoomba West QLD 4350
Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au
Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>
ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin #26, 25 October 2009

Hello,

Have you started Christmas shopping yet? The **2010 People & Planet Diary** we are selling as a fundraiser would make a lovely present for someone. Or, as a little gift to yourself, so that you can keep track of everything that is happening in your life. We like to help you out when we can. Same with this enews bulletin. I hope it will be informative and fun to read. Just give us a call or drop us an email if you would like to purchase a diary, or to just give us some feedback on anything we do. Cheers!

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

*"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned
and the last fish been caught will we realise we cannot eat money".
Cree Indian proverb*

Office news

Great news folks! HOPE has been successful in partnering with Yarramine Environmental and Excel Solar, both of Toowoomba, to stage a series of three *Going Solar* seminars; and introduce a *Solar Neighbourhood* project (see story under LCD Project News).

HOPE was also fortunate enough to participate at the *Toowoomba Spring Home & Lifestyle Expo*, 16-18 October. We organised a Speakers Program on *sustainable homes and gardens*, as well as a large information display. Many thanks to Australian Events for allowing us the opportunity to attend this event; to all the speakers who gave freely of their time; to the government agencies; businesses and NGOs who donated pallet loads of literature; and finally, to HOPE members who helped staff our display.

Our next fund-raising venture is the sale of the *2010 People & Planet Diary*. Cost is \$19.95 plus \$2.75 for postage & handling. Please contact the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 to order your copy.

Date Claimer

Annual General Meeting and 21st Birthday celebrations

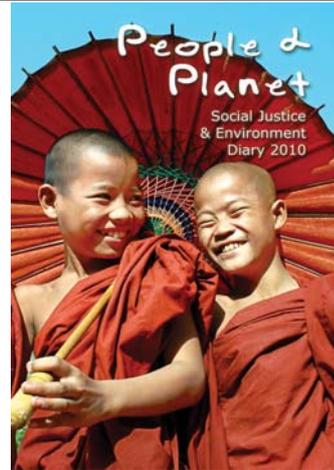
Date: Saturday 14 November
Venue: Laurel Bank Park pergola (Herries St side), Toowoomba
Time: 11.30am - AGM followed by lunch at 12.30pm
Event: AGM and sausage sizzle lunch celebrating 21 years of HOPE
RSVP: By Friday 6 November for catering purposes
BYO: Chairs, drinks & special dietary requirements

PS. Help is needed with setting up. Offers of assistance can be directed to Miriam, ph 4659 5030 or Frank 4639 2135.

2010 People & Planet Diary now available for sale

People & Planet: Social Justice & Environment Diary 2010 features 55 exceptional photos of people and places around the world, accompanied by short, fascinating stories about social and environmental issues. People & Planet is published by a partnership of 40 Australian social justice and environment organisations, and raises funds for the work of these organisations in promoting a just, sustainable world. People & Planet is perfect for use as a daily diary, but also makes a great gift for Christmas. The diary is printed on a mix of recycled and plantation paper and is spiral bound. Every second page features a striking and inspiring photo of people and places around the world, with each facing page covering one week from January to December 2010.

The 2010 People & Planet Diary costs just \$19.95 plus \$2.75 for postage & handling.



Low Carbon Diet project and related news

HOPE LCD project update

Walking the Talk: HOPE hears of SQIT's early work on organisational sustainability - by Andrew Nicholson 27/09/09

HOPE presented a 30 minute overview of the Low Carbon Diet program to an attentive audience at the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT) at the Bridge Street, Toowoomba Campus on Thursday, 3rd September 2009.

Over 150 TAFE staff members were assembled to receive a range of in-house professional development presentations using the impressive multi-media facilities of the Bridge Street lecture theatre. Andrew Nicholson presented HOPE's segment on Low Carbon Diet and he enjoyed the receptive atmosphere of those in attendance.

As part of his talk, Andrew asked for feedback from the audience on any existing environmental or sustainability initiatives that were being conducted by the organisation, and it was clear from comments received from Danielle Bermingham, Marketing Manager, that SQIT has already embarked on the early beginnings of assessing its current operational carbon footprint; and seeking to reduce this in the future. This early work reported from TAFE is heartening as it demonstrates a major local organisation which intends to walk the talk of organisational sustainability.



Closing discussion between HOPE and TAFE staff pointed to the possibility of a future mutual support partnership between our two organisations, with the possibility, for example, that HOPE obtains a semi-permanent display space for its work on campus. HOPE will continue to follow and report upon the significant potential of this emerging player in local sustainable development culture. We wish to particularly thank Lisa Erbacher and Danielle Bermingham of TAFE for making our involvement possible on this occasion.

Sustainable House Day a Great Success - by Nigel Kimball

A record 170 homes around Australia opened their doors to the public for this year's Sustainable House Day held Sunday, 13 September. This year, HOPE helped involve two local premises to participate in the day, St. James Anglican Church which showcased their solar energy usage and the Krenske's family who showcased their sustainable home gardening and permaculture techniques. Although visitor numbers were not as high as hoped (just under 50 through both premises), a number of visitors travelled from Brisbane to visit Krenske garden. A big thank you to Archdeacon Gary Harch and the parish volunteers who helped on the day, as well as Hugh and Kaye Krenske for their participation. Plans are afoot for HOPE's involvement in next year's Sustainable House Day, which will be held on Sunday 12th September 2010.

Solar Neighbourhood is Launching in Toowoomba - by Nigel Kimball

HOPE is very pleased to announce that after several months of preparation we can officially state that an exciting new *Solar Neighbourhood* project for Toowoomba commenced in early October. The project will commence with a three-month pilot exercise involving a series of *Going Solar* seminars, the first of which was held on Thursday 8 October at the Groom Park Hall, Neil Street, Toowoomba. Homeowners interested in going solar are invited to attend these FREE seminars to find out what is involved in purchasing a solar system and how, through the project, they can do so at a greatly discounted rate thanks to the power of bulk purchasing and a number of Government incentives available that are designed to make solar systems more accessible to the public. Local companies, Yarramine Environmental, who will manage the project and Excel Solar who will source and provide installations are also very excited by the commencement of the pilot. Seats at each of the seminars (next one is on 29 October) are limited and to reserve your seat you need to register your attendance with Nigel Kimball from Yarramine Environmental on (07) 4638 2442. Light refreshments will be available and attendees will be able view a scale model of a solar system.

Climate Smart Home Service TV Give-away

Haven't had a Climate Smart Home Service done yet? Now you have a chance to win a 6-star energy efficiency rated LED TV worth over \$5000! Just sign up for service before 3 November 2009 and you will automatically be in the draw to win. Go to <http://www.climatesmarthome.com/>

Townsville Solar City Celebrates its Success

With over 1000 Smart Meters and a range of energy-saving lighting and appliances installed throughout Magnetic Island, northern Queensland's Townsville Solar City has a lot to celebrate. Environment Minister Peter Garrett joined project leaders Ergon Energy, council representatives and other guests to mark the first year of the \$32 million joint initiative. Townsville is one of seven cities in the Australian Government's \$94 million Solar Cities program. It is delivered by a consortium led by Ergon, with Townsville City Council, Honeycomb Property Group, Delfin Lend Lease and Cafalo Pty Ltd. Go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/garrett/2009/mr20090929a.html>

Hard copies of the **Homeowners Insulation Program** materials are available from Federal Department of Environment's website at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/energyefficiency/insulation/homeowners/pubs/hip-guidelines.pdf>

Climate Proofing Your Community forum information

An initiative of Conservation Volunteers Australia and Shell. Go to

<http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/shellecovolunteers/shellpresentations.htm>

Australia's Solar Cities - Towards a Sustainable Energy Future

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/solarcities/index.html>

Windpower information

<http://www.ata.org.au/publications/wind-power-plan-your-own-wind-power-system>

Towards climate safe homes is published by Environment Victoria in partnership with the Alternative Technology Association, Australian Conservation Foundation, Friends of the Earth Australia and Moreland Energy Foundation. At present, our poor quality housing stock is part of the climate change problem. But as this report shows, with the right mix of policies, the housing sector can become an important part of the solution. Given the length of time today's houses will be in use, it's essential that any decisions taken now to raise building standards represent a decisive first step along the road towards this long-term goal. Focusing particularly on Victoria, this report makes a convincing case for raising the required standard for new homes and renovations and provides recommendations for state and federal governments. Download the report from

[http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/sites/default/files/Towards climate safe homes_0.pdf](http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/sites/default/files/Towards%20climate%20safe%20homes_0.pdf)

The **Australia's Solar Cities** program was first announced by Australian Government in 2004. It is designed to trial new sustainable models for electricity supply and use in large-scale grid-connected urban sites, and to bring industry, business, governments and communities together to alter the way they produce, use and save energy towards a more sustainable future. Currently, the program includes seven Solar Cities - Adelaide, Alice Springs, Blacktown, Central Vitoria, Moreland, Perth and Townsville. If you live in one of these cities and would like to become involved, contact your local Solar City. For further information, publications and resources, visit the website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/solarcities/index.html>.

ADVERTISEMENT

Green Harvest presents **Australian Gardening Books sale**.

Save over \$70.00 - 4 great titles for the price of 1 book!

Pack contains 1 copy of:

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- **Organic Vegetable Gardening**
- **Australian Plants for Year Round Colour**
- **Successful Gardening in Warm Climates**

Purchase as individual books and pay over \$110.00. Stock very limited, offer only while supplies last.

Go to <http://www.greenharvest.com.au>

Letter to the Editor

We have received expressions of support for our LCD project from various organisations and individuals. The following is an extract from a letter from the Queensland Government Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

"Thank you for your email (...) regarding the Queensland Government's Climate Smart Living - Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program and your plan to introduce a schools challenge. I congratulate your organisation on its choice to become part of the climate change solution and for receiving a grant to participate in the 30-day program (...). I have requested that messages about the Low Carbon Diet program be promoted on our intranet, in Schools Update, a weekly newsletter sent electronically to all Queensland state school principals and other school-based staff, and in Education Views, our electronic news publication available on the department's website."

Julie Grantham, Director-General, DETA

Updates on upcoming events

Recycling Week, 9 - 15 November - More info at <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/>

World Fisheries Day, 21 November, http://www.gdrc.org/doyourbit/21_11-fisheriesday.html

Walk Against Warming, 12 December, www.walkagainstawarming.org

Toowoomba News

Sustainable Housing

The Sustainable Home Toowoomba at 308 Ramsay Street is open for group tours. A perfect opportunity to showcase to students and community groups the features and benefits of sustainable housing. Tours take approximately 1 hour. Bookings to Louise Mayne on 4688 6417 or email louise.mayne@toowoombarc.qld.gov.au

Students take the sustainable house design challenge

Toowoomba State High School (TSHS) Year 10 Super Science students undertook the task of designing a house that uses resources in a sustainable way considering energy use, water use and climate control. The unit was supported by a Queensland Museum learning kit. As part of the kit the museum provides a model of a sustainable house with teaching and learning notes including activity sheets. The TSHS students and teacher, Michelle Tebay, also communicated with Queensland Museum staff via a blog. If you would like further information about the Sustainable House kit please contact Allan Morrison at the Queensland Museum (allan.morrison@qm.qld.gov.au).

Environmental Education Activities for schools and community groups - An Initiative of the Toowoomba Regional Council

Toowoomba Regional Council's education activities program aims to inform students about the natural environment and how to care for it. The program consists of almost 40 activities which are divided into three streams: Bushland and Gowrie Creek; Waterwise; and Environmental Health. Go to http://www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=92&Itemid=5

General

Bike Safety

How not to get hit by cars - important lessons in bike safety. Go to <http://bicyclesafe.com>

Global Zero

In late September the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Her Majesty Queen Noor was at the meeting representing Global Zero and the millions around the world who believe that when it comes to nuclear weapons, one is one too many. To watch Queen Noor's video and invite your friends to join you in supporting Global Zero, click on <http://www.globalzero.org/en/qn-taf>

Action for better recycling

Ministers will meet again on 5 November in Perth to decide whether to progress a national container deposits, an outcome we want to be sure of! *Message in a Bottle* is a stunt/petition that will be presented on the 5 November to Garrett and is your opportunity to tell him to say yes to national container deposits. Labels that, once filled in, will be stuck onto MANY drink containers to be delivered to Garrett at the Perth EPHC meeting. We need to get as many of these as possible signed between now and November. Once signed, post them back to the following address on sheets, and they will go to Perth to be stuck onto bottles. Labels have to be posted no later than 2 November to: Rachel Pemberton, 8 Cantonment Street Fremantle WA 6160. Enquiries to Sarah van Erp, Waste Minimisation Project Officer, Resource Recovery & Climate Change, Total Environment Centre, <http://www.tec.org.au>

Top 10 Reasons To Grow Your Own Organic Food:

(And to buy organic when you can't grow it)

1. HELP BEAUTIFY YOUR COMMUNITY

Besides being used to grow food, community gardens are also a great way to beautify a community, and to bring pride in ownership.

2. GET THE NUTRITION YOU NEED & ENJOY TASTIER FOOD!

Many studies have shown that organically grown food has more minerals and nutrients that we need than food grown with synthetic pesticides.

3. SAVE MONEY

Growing your own food can help cut the cost of the grocery bill.

4. PROTECT FUTURE GENERATIONS

"We have not inherited the Earth from our fathers, we are borrowing it from our children." Lester Brown

5. PREVENT SOIL EROSION

The Soil Conservation Service estimates more than 3 billion tons of topsoil are eroded from the United States' croplands each year. That means soil erodes seven times faster than it's built up naturally.

6. PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Water makes up two-thirds of our body mass and covers three-quarters of the planet.

7. SAVE ENERGY

Modern farming uses more petroleum than any other single industry. If you are growing your own food in the city, you are cutting down on transportation and pollution costs.

8. KEEP CHEMICALS OFF YOUR PLATE

If you are growing your own food, you have control over what does, or doesn't, go into it. The bottom line is that pesticides are poisons designed to kill living organisms and can also harm humans.

9. PROTECT FARM WORKERS & HELP SMALL FARMERS

A (US) National Cancer Institute study found that farmers exposed to herbicides had six times more risk than non-farmers of contracting cancer. Farm worker health is also a serious problem in developing nations, where pesticide use can be poorly regulated. An estimated 1 million people are poisoned annually by pesticides.

10. PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY

Mono-cropping is the practice of planting large plots of land with the same crop year after year. While this approach tripled farm production between 1950 and 1970, the lack of natural diversity of plant life has left the soil lacking in natural minerals and nutrients. To replace the nutrients, chemical fertilizers are used, often in increasing amounts. Single crops are also much more susceptible to pests, making farmers more reliant on pesticides.

What other reasons can you come up with?

Queensland News

Earth Smart Science Schools

The Earth Smart Science (ESS) Schools program is an election commitment by the Queensland Government to expand the number of environmentally sustainable schools in the State from 60 to 1000 by 2012. This also includes the declaration of 2010 as the Year of Environmental Sustainability. The ESS program will be implemented through the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable School Initiative (QESSI) regional hubs. The process of supporting schools to become more environmentally sustainable will be based on a whole-of-school approach to sustainability as outlined in the National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools. As part of this program schools will develop and implement School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs). QMDC is one of the QESSI hubs that will be supporting schools through the ESS program. QMDC and its partners will deliver training to staff, provide resources and other support to assist schools. To facilitate the sharing of information and support between schools and to ensure the greatest efficiency in the delivery of services the program will happen through a cluster approach. QMDC will be delivering information sessions on ESS and what it means for schools in the region. The sessions will be delivered in both an online and face-to-face format. To register your interest and for more information please contact QMDC through www.qmdc.org.au.

'Living Smart Homes' is a free program of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Moreton Bay Regional Council. If you are residents in these council areas and over the age of 18, you could become a registered user participating in Living Smart Homes Program and make more sustainable lifestyle choices by completing four living smart modules: energy, water, transport, and waste. Find out more information and become a part of it, simply visit <http://www.livingsmarthomes.net.au/Default.aspx>

National News

Population Boom Will Bust Environment and Quality of Life

New demographic figures released recently by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show Australia's population is on a collision course with our natural environment, the Australian Conservation Foundation said. Read the full story at http://www.acfonline.org.au/articles/news.asp?news_id=2469&eid=13428

Higher education institutions roll out recycling on campus - Western Australia

Students and staff at the University of Western Australia (UWA) have taken their efforts toward sustainability to a new level with the installation of new recycling systems as part of a Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) funded initiative aimed at spreading the Do the Right Thing, Use the Right Bin message. The initiative, launched on September 14, is part of a national program funded by the PSF which focuses on providing Australia's higher education institutions with easy and effective public recycling systems and signage. UWA was the first in WA to sign onto the higher education recycling program, making it a key element of their new Sustainable Education program. And thanks to a partnership between the PSF and Australian Campuses Towards Sustainability, a not for profit incorporated association that serves as the umbrella body for operational and educational sustainability initiatives, there is plenty happening in other states. A further fourteen (14) of Australia's higher education institutions are now signed up to rollout new recycling systems in the next few months. The new recycling bins and signage will be used on a daily basis by the 440,000 students and 38,000 staff across the 15 universities and TAFE's signed on to the program to date - that's a lot of people Doing the Right Thing. For further information contact PSF Higher Education Program Manager, Trish McGee on 0439 134 896 or at trish.mcgee@afgc.org.au.



Green Action Victoria

Green Action is a bold new movement to mobilise every single person in Victoria (all 5 million!) to become actively involved in safeguarding their environment. It's about each and every one of us taking actions to help the environment in our own special way. Actions that are meaningful to us as individuals—and remarkably powerful when they are multiplied by 5 million. People are busy and taking actions for a greener future is not always at the top of the 'to do' list. Green Action makes it easier for people to take action to safeguard Victoria's environment. Everyone who signs up to Green Action will receive a Green Action of the month. The Green Action of the month will be different each month and will be focused on either actions people can take to green up their own lives like buying smarter products that use less energy or actions people can take to 'change the system' like writing to their MP about making critical changes in the way we govern our state. For more information go to <http://www.environmentvictoria.org.au/content/what-is-green-action>

Resources

The CSIRO Home Energy Saving Handbook released

The book shows us exactly what we, as individuals, can do to cut our energy use without cutting back on our lifestyles. It is possible to be eco-friendly, save money and be comfortable! The CSIRO Home Energy Saving Handbook is published by Pan Macmillan and is A\$29.99 RRP, available now in book stores and online retailers. See <http://www.csiro.gov.au/resources/Energy-Saving-Handbook.html>

Web resources

- Sustainable Jamboree website: www.sustainbalejamboree.org/
- The **Gardening Australia** website has stacks of informative factsheets available free -of-charge. The range of categories includes 'fruit, vegetables and herbs', 'soils', 'native plants', and 'waterwise gardening'. Go to <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/>
- Have some fun and play a game:
<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/education/ecologic/games.htm>
- **The Australian Business & Climate Group (ABCG)** is a group of nine major organisations - Anglo Coal, BP Australia, Deloitte, Mirvac, Rio Tinto, Santos, Swiss Re, VicSuper and Westpac. The group's major objective is to identify a supporting role for business in the acceleration of the development and deployment of Australia's low emissions economy. It has released a report entitled *Stepping Up: Accelerating the Deployment of Low Emission Technology in Australia* in August 2007, which is available in hard copy from Santos Corporate Affairs by phoning 08 8116 5219, or downloadable from <http://www.businessandclimate.com/report.htm>.
- **Worldwatch Institute** - Providing insights and ideas on various global issues, such as climate change, resource degradation, and population growth, Worldwatch Institute carries on the interdisciplinary research seeking innovative solutions for achieving a sustainable society. This website consists of publications (State of the World, World Watch Magazine, Vital Signs), blogs (Dateline: Copenhagen, Nourishing the Planet, Green Economy, and Transforming Cultures), and programs. You can sign up for one of their e-newsletters to stay up-to-date on the latest global sustainability analysis. Go to <http://www.worldwatch.org/>

A tip / helpful hint

Computer recycling tip

The environmental cost of computer waste is currently not incorporated into the cost of new computers, so there is no support for a comprehensive recycling scheme. There are ways to dispose of your old computer in a greener way. Here is a guide for recycling your old computer.

http://www.tec.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=643&Itemid=374

Reduce stand-by power leak in your home

Those little red lights that tell you your TV or monitor is poised to spring to life whenever you need it might be convenient but they actually cost you more than you might think in energy consumption. It has been estimated that standby power costs Australians more than \$950 million a year and accounts for around 10 per cent of household energy consumption.

Australian company FutureRange has developed a product to solve this problem. Designed to comply with Australian safety standards the 'FutureSwitch' plug, sits between your appliance power board or plug and your power point. It is operated by a wireless remote switch that can be placed in a convenient location in your home or office. One FutureSwitch transmitter can control an

unlimited number of FutureSwitch wall sockets. It's simple to install with no electrician required.

Save both money and the environment. Future Range products can be purchased from your nearest Origin Energy Shop or online at <http://www.futurerange..com/BuyOnline.aspx>.

For more information: <http://www.futurerange.com.au>



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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