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## HOPE E-news Bulletin #29 - 15 January 2010

Hello everyone!

Happy New Year to you, from all of us at HOPE. Made any 'green' resolutions for 2010? For a little help see the 'A Greener New Year' article under the helpful hints and tips heading. If you have any hints and tips you would like to share, please send them in. Or anything else that you think is important that HOPE should take up or focus on. We would like your input for our planning meeting later this month. (*see date claimer*)

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

*"We have to shift our emphasis from economic efficiency and materialism towards a sustainable quality of life and to healing of our society, of our people and our ecological systems". - Janet Holmes à Court*

### Office news

The first HOPE meeting of 2010 is on **23 January** at 10am, HOPE office at 22 Vacy Street. Everyone is invited to come along for a *cuppa* and some constructive discussion about HOPE direction. This will be a specific planning meeting for 2010. Please let us know what you think we should be tackling this year. - including regular events, such as Clean Up Australia Day. For a full calendar of HOPE events, contact the office or check the website for more details.

### PLANNING MEETING NOTICE

**When:** Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010, commencing at 10.00am

**Where:** 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba

**Morning tea provided --- RSVP by Wednesday 20 January**

**Proxy Votes:**

**If unable to attend meeting but would like your vote recorded, please allocate your proxy vote to either Frank Ondrus - President or Miriam Sharp - Secretary.**

**Clean Up Australia events** 2010 marks the 20th Anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day. If every Australian picks up JUST 1 piece of rubbish, together we could remove more than 20 million pieces from our environment. It's fun and easy, so that anyone and everyone can get involved.

**Clean Up Australia Day** - Sunday, 7 March 2010  
**Business Clean Up Day** - Tuesday, 2 March 2010  
**Schools Clean Up Day** - Friday, 5 March 2010

## Agenda for HOPE Planning Meeting, Saturday 23 January 2010

1. Welcome, introductions and housekeeping
2. Attendees:
3. Apologies:
4. General Business: **2010 and beyond #4 - Projects, etc**

### 2010 and beyond

As we come to the final phases of the *Low Carbon Diet* project (funding ends in March 2010), we look forward to maintaining our partnership with the Solar Neighbourhood project and to seek further opportunities to promote sustainable living practices.

The management committee will also be looking to improve policy and direction; operational structure and practices; seek operational and projects funding; and to form partnerships to undertake activities in keeping with our charter.

Some items for consideration are listed below. If you and/or organisation can assist with any of these matters; or you wish to put forward further suggestions, please do so.

### Proposed involvements, etc:

- Low Carbon Diet project - speaking at Garden City Rotary (15 Jan) and Toowoomba Older People's Network (10 Feb) meeting; display at USQ's O Week (24 Feb); and final e:mailout on *Taking the Low Carbon Diet*
  - Solar Neighbourhood project - Rnd 1 well under way; registrations coming in for Rnd 2
  - Invitation / Special events
    - Feb 17-19 QCC meetings - includes round-table discussions with DERM - send Frank Ondrus
    - June 29 - July 1 2010 Climate Adaptation Futures Conference -send Andrew Nicholson
  - Establish *Environmental Information Display* at SQIT (TAFE Toowoomba)
  - Support of, and attendance at:
    - February - USQ O Week - **Wednesday 24 February 2010, 9am to 1pm**
    - March 7 - Clean Up Australia Day - in partnership with NHW Toowoomba 32
    - May - Gardenfest
    - September - Sustainable House Day
    - September -Earth Charter Conference +10, Brisbane
    - October - Home & Lifestyle Expo, Toowoomba
  - Funding applications (x4) - Laptop computer, data projector & screen for HOPE; Laptop computer for NHW Toowoomba 32; DVD film proposal on Climate Change Adaptation on the Darling Downs; and purchase of library s/w and
  - Partnering with CCMA on Blueprint for the Bush project - Building NRM Volunteer Bridges (based on HOPE's Environmental Networking Partnership request)
  - Partnering with QMDC re DVD sustainability in schools - e.g. *Green-scaping* schools
  - Major fund-raising raffle - Melbourne Cup Day - multiple raffles with multi-draws - each under \$500 limit.
  - No involvement in Toowoomba's *World Environment Day* event this year
  - Promote / support / participate in regular Environmental Events Calendar activities - esp. Biodiversity Month / Threatened Species Day, Water Week and Recycling Week
  - Projects (local/state/national)
  - Transition Towns - [www.seac.net.au](http://www.seac.net.au) - refer to Karey Harrison, USQ lecturer
  - Regional Biodiversity Conference (2011) - in partnership with ANPC (Australian Network for Plant Conservation) + Yarramine Environmental
  - Seminar series - with topics including: Community Supported Agriculture; see Lapsed Projects folder
  - Other???
5. Next meeting date - to be advised
  6. Close of meeting

## Low Carbon Diet project and related news

### LCD project update

HOPE's remaining LCD project activities include presentations at Garden City Rotary Club (15/1) and Toowoomba Older Persons Network (TOMnet) (10/2); an information display at USQ "O" Week (24/2); and a final e:mailout entitled *Take the Low Carbon Diet*.

As part of the evaluation phase, we are seeking feedback from all and sundry about the "measures adopted by your household" to reduce energy (and water) consumption in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Toowoomba Regional Council area; other parts of Queensland; and in other States and Territories. Please specify if you have/will be registering to take the low carbon diet; adopt some of the LCD measures; or have instead registered for the *ClimateSmart Home Service*. Please forward your responses to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) by 31 March 2010.

### Related Climate Change News

**GECKO** (Gold Coast & Hinterland Environment Council) has teamed up with a local renewable energy company to bring a range of affordable solar power and solar hot water options to the Gold Coast, with the aim of installing 10,000 systems on their region's rooftops. For full details visit [www.gecko.org.au](http://www.gecko.org.au) .

### Letter to the Editor

The following is a letter from Chris Sanderson about Electric Vehicles. It is great to see that HOPE has such inspired and enthusiastic members. Thank you very much for your contribution, Chris!

*Dear HOPE,*

*I first started collecting media articles on Electric Vehicles five years ago.*

*It's amazing how quickly the industry has geared up to switch from oil to electricity for fuel - see link below.*

*There are now over 60 EV's on my list from international manufacturers, who have committed to produce at least one model.*

*It would be very nice to think that the electricity generating industry would be as responsive as this in switching from coal to renewable energy for fuel.*

*Perhaps this industry and its financiers is where we should be concentrating our efforts. Might be a lot easier to shift them than focussing on Big Coal.*

*After all, car manufacturers who sell family transport don't care how it's fuelled as long as we go on buying their cars.*

*Electricity generators make their money keeping our industry, houses, offices and computers running. And as long as we go on buying their energy, do they care what they use for fuel?*

*Remembering too that it was just a handful of EV activists that caused the making of the documentary 'Who Killed the Electric car?', plus a small group of US technical enthusiasts (CalCars), who developed the Plug-in version of the Prius and started people thinking about EV's as the price of petrol started to rise.*

*Chris*

Read more about Electric Vehicles at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/8449457.stm>

## Updates on Upcoming Events

**Green Cities** is the largest and most influential green building conference in the Asia Pacific region. Join us in Melbourne from **21 - 24 February** as we explore new ideas in sustainable building, forge connections and launch new products and technologies. More info at [www.greencities.org.au](http://www.greencities.org.au)

**GECKO** has organised another presentation night. The speaker this time is Graeme Taylor, author of 'Evolution's Edge'. He will talk about the evolution of a better world through societal change, using viable solutions. This free event will be held on **24 February** 6.30 - 8pm at Gecko House Currumbin. For more information and bookings, contact Gecko on 07 5534 1412 or [speaker@gecko.org.au](mailto:speaker@gecko.org.au).

**Earth Hour** - 8.30 pm, Saturday **27 March**, 2010

### Radioactive Exposure Tour 2010

Friends of the Earth is hosting the annual Radioactive Exposure Tour from **May 14-23**, 2010. Since the 1980s, these tours have exposed thousands of people first-hand to the realities of 'radioactive racism' and to the environmental impacts of the nuclear industry. More information on the Radioactive Exposure Tours is posted at [www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear). If you're interested in joining in the 2010 Radioactive Exposure Tour, contact Kasey Sparks, [writewithya@gmail.com](mailto:writewithya@gmail.com), 0425 862834 or Steve Holdsworth [1meteorsteve@gmail.com](mailto:1meteorsteve@gmail.com), 0430 354887.

To learn more about the issues check out:

- \* FoE webpages at [www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/oz](http://www.foe.org.au/anti-nuclear/issues/oz) (e.g. the uranium mining section and the radioactive racism section)
- \* the Australian Nuclear Free Alliance website [www.anfa.org.au](http://www.anfa.org.au)
- \* another key campaign in 2010 will be stopping the Rudd government's plan to dump nuclear waste on Aboriginal land in the NT - for more info see [www.beyondnuclearinitiative.wordpress.com](http://www.beyondnuclearinitiative.wordpress.com)

## Queensland News

### Queensland Home to Australia's Greenest Building

The \$44.5 million Zillmere Joint Contact Centre recently received the highest Green Star design rating ever given to an office building in Australia, and when completed next year will help reduce our carbon footprint by one-third with reduced electricity use. The 6 Star Green Star - Office Design v2 rating awarded by the Green Building Council, makes the centre the country's most ecologically sustainable office building that is comparable to any in the world.

Eco-friendly features include the air-conditioning system which includes thermal storage and off peak cooling; personalised, comfort controlled, workstations; chilled beam technology; and fresh air supply 150 per cent above Australian standards. The building will have water efficient appliances and fittings and an integrated water management system that will collect, treat and reuse water. Maximum use of daylight harvesting will minimise artificial light in the day.

Construction is currently underway and when completed in early 2010 the building will provide contract centre facilities 24 hours a day, seven days a week for Smart Service Queensland and Queensland Police.

From [www.towardq2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardq2.qld.gov.au) Also on <http://www.building4change.com/page.jsp?id=163> and <http://www.gbca.org.au/industry-news/brisbane-home-to-australias-greenest-building/2642.htm>

## **Queensland Government investing in Cycling**

The Queensland Government has invested \$556 million in the South East Queensland Cycle Network Program. This program aims to deliver an integrated cycle network from Noosa, through Greater Brisbane, Ipswich and Toowoomba to the Gold Coast by 2026.

As part of this network, the Cabbage Tree Creek Bikeway was recently opened at Taigum, making it easy for joggers, walkers and cyclists to access local destinations, the Moreton Bay Cycleway and the Boondall Wetlands Reserve. Keep your eyes open for other paths recently completed or nearing completion including:

- Toowong cycle and pedestrian overpass
- Princess Alexandra Hospital cycleway
- Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital cycle centre
- Green Road cycle and pedestrian underpass

This expansion in cycleways will make it easier for people to avoid traffic congestion and is contributing to the Q2 target to cut by one-third Queenslanders' carbon footprint through reduced car use and electricity. You can read more about the South East Queensland Cycle Network delivering these projects through the Department of Transport and Main Roads:

[http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/General\\_information/Cycling/Cycle\\_network\\_program/](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/General_information/Cycling/Cycle_network_program/)

## **National News**

### **1 Million Women Campaign**

#### **Women Want More Action on Climate - Poll Finds**

Women are significantly more likely than men - 56% to 46% - to expect the highest environmental and climate performance from businesses, according to a national poll by AMR Interactive. More women (45%) than men (35%) also think the global recession makes action on environmental sustainability more important now. However, over half of the women among the 4600 Australians who participated in the online poll in March-April 2009 say they have never sought out information to help them to improve their own environmental performance.

Natalie Isaacs, CEO of Climate Coolers, the creators of the 1 Million Women campaign says: "We already know that women make about 70% of the purchasing decisions that affect household emissions of greenhouse gas pollution. These new poll findings put all businesses and governments on notice that women are stronger in their environmental concern than men, and will be demanding more from everyone.

"The aim of 1 Million Women is to mobilise at least 1 in 8 women of Australia to take personal action on climate change. The more women we get engaged, the more pressure they'll put on business leaders and politicians to act as well."

For more information on the 1 million women campaign, go to [www.1millionwomen.com.au](http://www.1millionwomen.com.au)

## **Social Justice**

### **Improving Health by Combating Corruption**

Corruption prevents the poor from receiving adequate health care. In 2000, the not-for-profit Public Affairs Centre (PAC) of Bangalore, India, issued a report. It found that health care services among the urban poor had suffered considerably due to corruption in the form of 'bribes for care'. Less than 40% of patients had access to free medicines as required by government policy. After the PAC worked with the Bangalore Municipal Corporation to implement reforms, services significantly improved. Greater accountability, better qualified staff, an elected board

of overseers, and a citizen charter to defend the rights of patients halted corrupt practices and improved health.

Corruption reduces the resources effectively available for health, lowers the quality, equity and effectiveness of health care services. It discourages people from using and paying for health services and ultimately has a corrosive impact on the population's level of health. In 2006, a Transparency International report found that corruption was undermining progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially those related to reducing child mortality, improved maternal health and the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB and other diseases.

Reducing corruption is, therefore, an important step to increase and make more efficient use of available health resources to, ultimately, improve the general health status of the population.

Global Health - why are the most vulnerable forgotten?

Almost 9 million children under 5 are dying every year. Learn more about how you can be involved in preventing these deaths. More details on <http://www.onejustworld.com.au/>

### **Mutual Support Partners**

Started in June of 1991, **Planet Ark** is a non-profit environmental organisation that aims to show people and business the many ways that they can reduce their day-to-day impact on the environment - at home, at work and in the community.

**Planet Ark's** campaigns have become cornerstones of the environmental calendar, with events like National Tree Day and National Recycling Week providing the practical and easy-to-adopt activities that have empowered millions of Australians to make a simple lifestyle change for the good of the environment.

**Planet Ark** works in partnership with businesses, councils, environmental groups, schools, and community groups to achieve real and measurable results. Twelve million trees have been planted, half a billion cards and more than six million printer cartridges have been recycled as a direct result of our campaigns. Two million visitors have inquired about local recycling services through Planet Ark's RecyclingNearYou.com.au and two million volunteers have planted native trees for National Tree Day. In addition, millions of Australians receive our educational messages and practical advice every day via our website, Aware Newsletter, news service, resources, and strong media presence.

**Planet Ark's** products, including Aware Laundry Powder and Planet Ark endorsed products, represent the highest standard of quality and environmental responsibility in their field. Planet Ark also delivers the largest online environmental news service in the world, World Environment News.

For more information about Planet Ark's campaigns, products, solutions and achievements please visit [www.planetark.org](http://www.planetark.org).

## Resources

**Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World report - 2nd edition, A.D.Chapman**  
*Australian Biodiversity Information Services, Toowoomba, Australia :A Report for the Australian Biological Resources Study September 2009*

Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World was first published in 2006. It was a collation of information from taxonomic literature, online resources and previous compilations, augmented by discussions with systematists. It is updated and revised in this new edition, taking into account newly published species, and refined estimates and corrections, again with considerable input from the taxonomic community. Insects are subdivided further than before, with separate figures being given for the component orders, and the algae and fungi are rearranged in line with more recent classifications.

To download the complete report click here: [Numbers of Living Species in Australia and the World \(PDF - 2.7 MB\)](#)

### Google Earth Climate Change Focus

In collaboration with the Danish Government, Google has provided the first in a series of improvements to its free software, Google Earth. The aim is to promote global awareness of environmental issues by including layers and tours that allow people to explore the impact of climate change and solutions for dealing with it. Read more at

<http://www.gmagazine.com.au/news/1595/google-earth-brings-climate-focus>

### Ethos Foundation

Since its establishment in 2005 the **Ethos Foundation** has operated a not-for-profit consulting service specialising in sustainability and communication. The focus of the foundation is the building of local living economies and sustainable business and they strive to cultivate effective new thinking, values and action for positive, ecologically sustainable futures. Their consulting service provides both a vital cash flow component for the organisation as well as providing the opportunity for them to contribute to regional projects that centre on strategic sustainability issues. Their website has further information on the programs they run which include Building Sustainable Small Business; Consulting; Art and Ecology and Engaging4Achange. There are discussions, essays and poetry on the Writing page and tabs link to gallery, news, contact information and a shopping page.

The Ethos Foundation can be contacted at : 37 Bibaringa Place, Beechmont, QLD;

Email: [info@ethosfoundation.org.au](mailto:info@ethosfoundation.org.au) ; Phone: 07 3040 3035; Website: <http://www.ethosfoundation.org>

**ANZSES** - Established in 1961, Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society (ANZSES) is a non-profit organisation that can give technical service and scientific input on the renewable energy sector in Australia and New Zealand. ANZSES holds public and professional events to promote the environmentally sustainable production and use of energy and the sustainability in building. It aims to educate, inspire and enable people to utilise renewable energy sources and ecological building principles. Sustainable House Day and ANZSES annual conference on renewable energies and energy efficiency are excellent vehicles for doing just that. Understanding which climate zone you live in and how it affects your housing choices is one of the first steps in living sustainably. The 'Inspiring Ideas' page allows you to run the mouse over a map of Australia to find the climate zone of your own area and then follow through to a link which has suggestions and solutions for buildings in that particular climatic zone. The ANZSES website at <http://www.anzses.org/> has details about the organization, a contact list and membership form. There is also a link for members to access the online magazine 'Solar Progress', a 'Members Resource' page and discounted books at the online bookshop.

## Helpful hints and tips

**A Greener New Year** - by Lyn Spence (Full article available from our website: [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au))

New Year's Eve is generally the time we look back at our bad habits, self perceived faults and failed ambitions and resolve to do better in the future. While New Year's resolutions are generally far easier to make than they are to keep, it doesn't stop us from setting lofty goals for the coming year. This year, as we re-pledge our personal aims for the New Year we should also consider including a few 'green' resolutions for the health of the planet. Some simple and easily achievable changes could be to:

- **Buy locally made and grown products.** They usually require less packaging and eliminate the environmental costs of long-distance transport. The added bonus is that local fruits and vegetables are often fresher, and locally produced goods help support your own community.
- **Buy fewer disposable items.** Look for long-lasting goods that won't have to be replaced as often. You'll reduce waste and save landfill space.
- **Turn food scraps and garden waste into compost.** Wasted food is bad for both our wallets and the environment. When food rots it gives off methane, a greenhouse gas that is 23 times more potent a greenhouse gas than the carbon pollution that comes out of your car exhaust. Australians are throwing away three million tons of food a year which could be creating as much as 13 million tons of greenhouse emissions. The other big impact is what we call the hidden costs of food waste, and that is all the energy and resources it takes to get the food from the field to the fork. If organic waste is made into compost, it puts carbon and plant nutrients back into the soil where they belong and reduces the need for fertilizers.
- **Use a clothes line or indoor ainer.** The second biggest household energy user, after the refrigerator, is the clothes dryer. If you must use a dryer, remember to clear the lint filter after each load and dry only full loads of clothes. Hanging clothing outside in the sun and air to dry is the most energy-efficient method you can use with the added benefit of natural sanitizing from the sun.
- **Drive smarter** to help reduce the amount of fuel that you use. Proper maintenance on your car can make driving safer, use less fuel, and make your car last longer.

Starting the New Year with a few environmental resolutions can offer the satisfaction of knowing you're doing something positive toward ecological sustainability. Simple changes in daily routines followed throughout the year can make a difference that will not only lessen our impact upon the Earth but also help conserve our precious resources. Even small changes can help us live in a greener, more environmentally friendly world and small actions can have a huge impact if many people are similarly focused and committed.

### Waste Hierarchy:

HOPE endorses the Waste Hierarchy model, which places the greatest emphasis on avoidance of waste in the first instance. The steps in the Waste Hierarchy are:

- Avoid - collecting or creating waste
- Reduce - waste and use of resources, especially water and electricity
- Reuse - what you can
- Repair - give an item a longer life
- Divert - send items to welfare stores, not to the tip
- Recycle - glass, paper, plastic, steel, aluminium - support your Council's recycling programs
- Disposal - to the appropriate facility. Don't litter or illegally dump.

*Remember, you CAN make a difference!*

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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