



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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HOPE E-news Bulletin #30 - 8 February 2010

Hi!

A couple of weeks ago, we got together for a planning meeting. You will find the overview just below. Looks like it will be another busy year for HOPE! As the Low Carbon Diet project is coming to a close, we have accepted several new challenges. HOPE will be taking part in Toowoomba events - *Gardenfest* (1-3 May) and the *Home & Lifestyle Expo* (October). We will also be investigating the Transition Towns network and the opportunities to encourage its adoption. We would love to have you on board as a volunteer to help organise these activities with us. As we will be focussing more on climate change matters, watch out for the new *Climate Action News* section soon to be added to the enews bulletin and the website.

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

"I have always thought the actions of men the best interpreters of their thoughts." John Lock

Office news

Meeting report

HOPE's first gathering for 2010 - a planning meeting - was held on 23 January at Frank and Mary's place. Attendance was good; and it was a productive meeting. General business discussed included the establishment of an Environmental Information Display at SQIT (TAFE Toowoomba); attendance at events such as *Gardenfest* (1-3 May) and *Home & Lifestyle Expo* (October) Then we focussed on regular events for the year, such as Clean Up Australia Day and market days at USQ. It was decided that HOPE will not be participating in this year's World Environment Day event. HOPE will accept an invitation to attend QCC's Roundtable Discussions (17-19 Feb); and send a delegate to the Climate Adaptations Futures Conference in late June. The big event for this year will be participation in *Gardenfest*, May 1-3 in Toowoomba. HOPE will have an information display, and a 'show and tell' section.

Next we discussed the annual budget. Nigel explained that HOPE needs more regular income. Options include membership fees and sponsorship. It was also decided that we will organise a Melbourne Cup day raffle. Other financial items for discussion included funding applications for 1) laptop; and 2) cataloguing the library. The meeting closed at 12.10pm.

(Full minutes available from the office)

Treasurer's Report - 2009/2010, 22nd October 2009 - 21st January 2010

Opening balance at 21 October 2009 was \$2,327.45.

The primary source of income during the Quarter was from the 2010 Diary Fundraiser Campaign. Total income from this activity was \$859.20. HOPE made a profit of \$539.20 from this fundraising activity.

The primary expense for the Quarter related to the Low Carbon Diet project. Total cost for this exercise was \$800 to cover the consultants' expenses for organising and managing some events.

Account balance at 21 January 2010 is \$2,097.31. Some of these funds will most likely support HOPE activities at the upcoming Gardenfest event.

Nigel Kimball, Treasurer

Positions Vacant - Areas where you can help

HOPE is looking for volunteers who can help in the following areas:

--- Admin assistance; Media Team; Membership; Marketing & Public Relations; Issue Campaigners - Climate Change; and Genetically Modified Organisms; and Media Monitors.

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, publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Updates on Upcoming Events

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 5534 1412 or speaker@gecko.org.au.

Earth Hour 8.30 pm, Saturday **27 March**, 2010, <http://www.earthhour.org.au>

Gardenfest, **1-3 May**, TAFE Toowoomba. Info at <http://www.gardenfesttoowoomba.com.au>

Low Carbon Diet project and related news

Low Carbon Diet project

A final e:mailout media release (29/1) entitled *Take the Low Carbon Diet* was sent to all Queensland public and private primary and secondary schools ... some 2,600 schools. Thanks to Kay Johnson for preparing the email lists and Nicole Albury for the media release.

As part of the evaluation phase, we are seeking feedback from all and sundry about the 'measures adopted by household's to reduce energy (and water) consumption in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Toowoomba Regional Council area; and other

parts of Queensland. 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 by 31 March 2010.

Related Climate Smart News

Thinking of Going Solar? If yes, then why not attend one of our **FREE** information seminars presented by Terry Davis from Excel Solar and Nigel Kimball from Yarramine Environmental on *grid connected solar photovoltaic systems*.

Find out more about

- How solar systems work and how they can reduce your electricity bill
- Financial assistance available for systems
- Earning money from excess power generation, and
- An exciting new bulk buy project offering homeowners and businesses discounted systems.

Seminar dates:

Thursdays 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March at Groom Park Hall, Neil Street, Toowoomba from **7pm - 9pm**. Seats are limited, so if you would like to attend please register by calling Nigel Kimball on 4638 2442.

Sustainable Jamboree - Households and community groups can receive 2 x 1.5hr **workshops** by our trained facilitators to shed carbon emissions. No matter where you are on the sustainability scale, join in this program which has helped thousands in the US and is now customised for Australia. Free before 30 May 2010. To express your interest, contact Sustainable Jamboree on ph 3375 7268 or email info@sustainablejamboree.org.

Wombat Creative is launching a monthly bulletin service. If you want to be kept abreast of news about opportunities and issues around sustainability, register to subscribe to **The Worldly Wombat**, commencing February 2010. Visit www.wombatcreative.com.au/join.htm to sign-up online.

Carbon and waste covered at Copenhagen

A new white paper released at a December UN climate change summit in Copenhagen claims emission savings of 20% are achievable through effective municipal waste management strategies.

[Read more...](#)

Local News

Earth Smart Science program

The Earth Smart Science (ESS) program aims to improve the sustainability of all primary schools in Queensland by 2012. Thirty schools in the Darling Downs and South West Queensland will be working with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) and Amaroo Environmental Education Centre in 2010. The schools will take a whole-of-school approach to sustainability, incorporating sustainability actions into both school curriculum and operations. As part of this program schools will develop a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) to guide their actions. QMDC and Amaroo Environmental Education Centre are planning to kick off the program in February with a two-day professional development workshop in Dalby for the teachers involved. This will cover all the details of the program and feature sessions from outside experts with ideas on how the program can be part of learning activities. Schools involved will continue to receive tailored support and resources over the year. To read more about the ESS program visit our website

www.qmdc.org.au/educationprogram/earth-smart-science-program.html

Queensland News

Queensland Motorists Can Offset Their Emissions

[Reverse the Effect](#) is a Queensland Government initiative that encourages motorists to balance the impact of their vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions on the environment. By making a tax-deductible donation to the [Queensland Trust for Nature](#) Queensland motorists assist with planting trees and creating native forests that capture carbon from the atmosphere and reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.

Smart Steps For Sustainability

By Michele Smith, HOPE Member

The Queensland Government implemented the *TravelSmart* program as part of its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the state.

TravelSmart is a voluntary program that facilitates environmentally friendly ways for people to travel, by providing information about the many alternatives available to them. It encourages all Queenslanders to be active travellers who will not only have the potential to improve their personal health, but also to enhance environmental sustainability.

The *TravelSmart* initiative is an essential step in realising Australia's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 108% by 2012. As a large percentage of these emissions are the result of passive car travelling, it is essential that measures should be introduced to reduce them. At present this form of transport contributes to traffic congestion, air and noise pollution and an increased use of non-renewable fuels. Research has also revealed subsequent health and social problems and increased car dependency for children. In an attempt to address these problems, *TravelSmart* encourages people to overcome their passivity by taking advantage of the various initiatives suggested by the program.

In order to achieve these initiatives, the Queensland Government has invested approximately \$13 million to implement *TravelSmart* across the state. The *TravelSmart* initiative will lead the way to a cleaner environment by providing: infrastructure for active transport networks; incentives for both schools and workplaces to reduce the use of private vehicles and much-needed information to increase public awareness of the unsustainability of private transport and the benefits of active travelling.

Apart from the obvious benefits of this program to the environment through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, there are many other advantages for those willing to adopt *TravelSmart* suggestions. Personal benefits to active travellers include: improved health and air quality; reduced travel costs; decreased traffic congestion and noise and enhanced social interaction. To the employer there are additional advantages such as reduced car parking and fleet management costs; reduced staff absenteeism and increased productivity due to improved health and better workplace accessibility as a result of decreased traffic congestion.

As a concerned individual, you can become a Smart Traveller by consciously changing your transport habits. It costs nothing - there are no hidden fees or costs. All you have to do is to become active. Take a bus, ride a bike or walk to work or school, even if it is only part of the way. Involve your workplace and school as well, by logging on to the website (www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au) and inquiring about Sustainable Travel Plans (STPs).

Travel better. Travel smart for a sustainable future.
It's a positive new year's resolution that you can achieve!

Qld Recycling E-Petition

Please sign the e-petition requesting the introduction of container deposit refund legislation (CDL) in Qld. It calls for a 10-cent deposit/refund for every (glass, bottle, can, PET bottle, fruit drink and flavoured milk carton) drink container (in consultation with the drinks manufacturers) like they have in South Australia. Such a scheme would help address the increasing (dangerous) occurrence of broken glass, cans and associated refuse on roads, footpaths, cycle ways and public space as well as the escalating amount of recyclable drink containers going to landfill and overloading public refuse bins.

Go to:

http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/EPetitions_qld/CurrentEPetition.aspx?PetNum=1336&Index%20=-1

2010 - Year of Environmental Sustainability (YES) in Queensland schools

YES aims to:

- increase awareness and understanding of environmental sustainability issues
- support teachers to include environmental education for sustainability elements in their teaching practice
- empower students and schools to be more environmentally sustainable in everyday practices to reduce their ecological footprint
- promote the achievements of Queensland state schools and their students in adopting environmentally sustainable practices.

A range of activities will include events and ambassador programs. A new website will be established with resources for schools. Refer to www.det.qld.gov.au/yes or contact Cam Mackenzie, Queensland Department of Education and Training, ph (07) 323 70405 or Mobile 0434 079 620 or email: cam.mackenzie@deta.qld.gov.au .

The **Queensland Youth Environment Council (QYEC)** is a Ministerial Advisory Council set up to provide the Queensland Government with a youth perspective about key environmental sustainability issues. Since 2007, QYEC members have provided the Queensland Government with advice on renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change, water demand and supply, biodiversity conservation and waste. The Council reports jointly to the Hon. Kate Jones, Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, and the Hon. Geoff Wilson, Minister for Education and Training.

Council members are also asked to undertake projects that inspire other young Queenslanders to take action to achieve a more sustainable future for the State. QYEC has facilitated workshops at major 'green' events around the State, attended and presented at conferences, and engaged young people in campaigns such as the Low Carbon Diet, the Woodford Folk Festival camper waste survey, and the Youth and Environment Survey in collaboration with the University of Queensland. The inaugural Council's term concludes in May this year, and the Ministers are currently seeking applications from Queensland youth aged 15-25 to form a new Council. Applications will close 1 March, 2010.

To be eligible for a position on QYEC, applicants must:

- Be aged between 15-25 years;
- Be a permanent resident of Queensland; and
- Have an interest in environmental sustainability
- Be available to attend two or three general meetings each year to progress Council work
- Have their applications endorsed by a mentor or teacher

Young Queenslanders that meet these criteria, and are interested in finding out more about the Council can access the application form and information sheet at www.qyec.org.au .

National News

Australian Emissions Decline, But Renewables Struggle

Greenhouse gas emissions from energy production declined across eastern Australia last year because less coal was burnt, and NSW cut back more than the other states, while some of Australia's big green energy players have called on the Federal Government to remove solar hot water heaters from a scheme that entices investment in renewable power. Read more at <http://abccarbon.com/emissions-decline-as-less-coal-burnt-but-renewables-struggle/>

World News

Cutting carbon emissions in the UK

The recession will not deflect the UK Government's efforts to cut carbon emissions and move to a low carbon economy, Energy and Climate Change Minister Ed Miliband said last week, as the Government formally responded to the Committee on Climate Change's first annual report on carbon budgets. Britain stood to gain not only from a green jobs revolution, but from measures to help people cut the amount of energy they use. Read more at <http://abccarbon.com/green-jobs-revolution-comes-with-uk's-low-carbon-economy/>

Study shows GE crops increase pesticide use

The GE crop industry argues that GE crops reduce pesticide use. A recent report, Impacts of Genetically Engineered Crops on Pesticide Use: The First Thirteen Years, discredits such claims. [Read more](#)

GE bans, laws and labels from around the world

Prince Charles has called them the "biggest environmental disaster of all time," while agriculture industrialists like Monsanto swear they're safe for human consumption and a boon for the environment. GE foods are nothing if not controversial, and that controversy spans the globe. From Ireland and the European Union to Africa and Japan, and all the way back to the U.S., various bans, laws, and labels can make GE crops difficult to keep up with. Read Treehuggers roundup of the latest changes in GE crop legislation.

[Read more](#)

China offers carbon emissions targets for the first time

China said it will cut the intensity of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of gross domestic product in 2020 by 40 to 45 per cent from 2005 levels, offering targets for the first time...

[More>>](#)

Landcare News

Australian Landcare magazine is available on-line. Visit www.australianlandcaremagazine.com.au for articles on domestic cat control, flying-foxes and the Hendra virus, climate change impacts, farm landscape resilience, and more.

Landcare New Group Starter Kit now available www.landcareonline.com. The free kit, developed by Landcare Australia Ltd, is designed to assist those interested in setting up a community landcare group including the general steps involved and the formal requirements that need to be considered when starting a group.

Resources

Web resources

The **Green Times** is Australia's newest online publication and directory for the green industry. It was designed to create more awareness of environmental issues and promote Australian green businesses. The **Green Times** was created on the belief that by raising awareness with a green journal, more people and businesses will take initiatives and become greener. The green directory is then there to facilitate contact with relevant green organisations. The **Green Times** mission is to create a direct bridge between information and action.

The **Green Times** online journal goals are to highlight environmental issues, identify new and innovative ways to protect the environment, raise awareness and show the importance of being green, through a range of articles that are easy to understand and accessible to all. The **Green Times** articles are written by people who care about the environment and want to share their knowledge and experience. If you wish to be part of the **Green Times** Team, email Marion at marion@greentimes.com.au.



The **Green Times** business directory goals are to promote Australian Green Businesses, and to make it easier for people to find what they are looking for and contribute to help protect the environment. We live in a society that loves to consume. The **Green Times** is committed to better inform consumers of all the green products and services available in hopes of reducing our carbon impact on the planet by helping

switch consumer's behavior to more environmentally friendly choices. **Green Times** business directory listing will be free till March 2010. To be part of the **Green Times** directory go to <http://www.greentimes.com.au/directory/add-entry.html>.

The **Green Times** team offers a simple platform to facilitate environmental changes. Then, only YOU can make a difference! Check www.greentimes.com.au.

Advertisement

Visy Recycling is unique because it operates a truly closed loop system and is fully committed to recovering all recyclable products that would otherwise be destined for landfill and recycling them into new products ready to be consumed and recycled again and again. It is Australia's largest recycling company, processing in excess of 1.47 million tons of paper and cardboard, more than 460,000 tons of glass, over 47,000 tons of plastics and 19,000 tons of metals. To find out more about this innovative company and to get full details of its business, household and school recycling programs go to <http://www.visy.com.au/>. Also take the time to check out their sustainable living guide at <http://www.visy.com.au/index.php?id=504>.

Advertisement

Fieldforce Services is a leading specialist service provider of water, energy and conservation services to a host of major clients in the Electricity, Gas and Water industries, as well as local government authorities corporations and the private residential sector. They specialise in the project management of small and large scale projects, from a single home or office retrofit through to the installation of water and energy saving devices to over 170,000 homes per annum. To date, Fieldforce has installed over 15 million energy and water saving showerheads, light globes, and other products to over 300,000 domestic properties throughout Australia. To enquire about an environmental solution for your home or business or find out more about the services they provide visit the website at <http://www.fieldforce.net.au/index.html>.

Helpful hints and tips

Numerous things we can do to help save our planet - part 1

Each one of us needs to reduce our 'carbon footprint' as much as we possibly can. We need to decrease it to the bare minimum. Here are numerous easy ways we can all contribute to saving our planet.

Shopping:

- Stop using so many plastic bags
- Buy fewer clothes - save on textiles
- Buy organic: - buy direct from the farmer, if possible
- 'Think global, stay local' - keep money in the area. In other words, think that damaging your environment affects the whole globe, and when shopping, buy local produce (because this keeps small businesses alive and it costs less environmentally if you get it in your local store)
- Use washable nappies, not disposable ones
- Buy biodegradable cotton pads (women) and/or washable/recyclable pads

Recycling:

- Recycle food packaging and other packaging
- Use a toy library
- Use rechargeable batteries
- Recycle everything you can.

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 CO₂ in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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