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HOPE E-news Bulletin #34, 17 May 2010

Hi all,

What a great time we had at Gardenfest! It was a wonderful success. A big thanks to everyone who participated. See the Office News for more details.

This issue of the bulletin has a feature article on the Earth Charter Initiative. HOPE firmly endorses the Charter, and supports the Australia Pacific Earth Charter +10 Festival which will be held in Brisbane later this year. Have a read, and also become a supporter of this international declaration.

Miriam Sharp

Secretary - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

"Action will remove the doubts that theory cannot solve." Tehyi Hsieh

Updates on Upcoming Events

- **Water Conference, 20 May**, Stanthorpe, www.gldwater.com.au
- **BFA Organic and Biological Roadshow's 2010 - 22 May**, Toowoomba (program on [BFA website](#))
- **Greenfest, 4-6 June 2010**, in the Brisbane Botanical Gardens - www.greenfest.com.au
- **Australian Irrigation Conference & Exhibition, 8-10 June**, Sydney. www.irrigationaustralia.com.au
- **Healthy Cities Conference, 12-13 July**, Brisbane <http://www.healthycities.com.au/Default.asp>
- **Enviro 2010, 21-23 July**, Sydney - www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010
- **2010 International Climate Change Adaptation Conference, 29 June-1 July**, Gold Coast.
Visit www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2010

Office news

Hello HOPE members and friends,

The past few weeks have been busy and rewarding. Our Gardenfest displays were well-received (see report below); we accepted invitations to attend 6 events over the next 3 months; we installed an information display at Toowoomba TAFE; we held our 2nd ordinary meeting for the year on 15 May (see report below); and we're getting ready for another round of Going Solar seminars in June.

At the HOPE meeting on Saturday 15 May, guest speakers Andrew Nicholson, our Climate Educator, spoke on his role; and Dr. Karey Harrison, lecturer at University of Southern Queensland, spoke about the Transition Towns movement. Those assembled agreed to support the motion *"that HOPE formally support the principles and practices of the Transition Towns movement; and that HOPE actively encourages its members, supporters and the wider community to embrace Transition Towns practices. Furthermore, HOPE will seek partnerships with other agencies and communities to initiate Transition Towns activities."*

(A full copy of meeting minutes will be available shortly from the office).

Volunteers are urgently required to assist with media activity, membership; marketing and promotion - noting that a good portion of these tasks can be done online.

We also require additional assistance with website maintenance and publications activity.

On the down side, we ran out of time to submit a funding application to Keep Australia Beautiful's community grants program; and a nomination to United Nations Association of Australia's *World Environment Day Awards*. (We'll endeavour to participate in 2011.)

Kay Johnson and I have been reviewing HOPE's computer files, the filing cabinet and our library resources with the view of stream-lining filing procedures and archiving lots of material.

Kay is also compiling a list of environment groups throughout the country as part of a planned membership drive; and consolidated a list of potential sponsors.

Gardenfest Report

HOPE's information display and gardening activities at this year's *Gardenfest* received lots of interest from the visiting public.

Thanks to all who helped with planning, preparation and staffing our large display area over the 3 days - especially Terry Ryan for his organic vegetables and Herbs for Health displays; David von Pein "The Meter Man" for his soil and plant testing display; Neil Tracey-Smith for his Square Foot Gardening demonstration; Joyclyn Orme for the many display signs; Ian Simons for his chook tractor and *Beginners Guide to Chook Keeping* booklet; and Peter Kearney from Cityfood Growers for his presentation at the speakers tent.

Thanks to everyone you contributed by way of volunteer time, equipment, product, plants, literature and give-away items:

Coroneos Nursery, Richard Colcough - Toowoomba Regional Council Nursery, Bunnings Warehouse, Renee Fletcher - Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Green Harvest, Digger's Club, Eden Seeds, ClimateSmart Home Service, Chris Leslight - Department of Environment & Resource Management (DERM), Colin Purnell - Earthlife, Garry Stewart - Selleys Yates, Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP), Plastic Recyclers Australia, Toowoomba Community Organic Gardens Assn; volunteers - Kerry Kruger, Gordon Lee, Andrew Nicholson, Miriam Sharp, Mary Ondrus and Nigel Kimball.



Neil Tracey-Smith



Chook tractor provided by Ian Simons

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.

Advertisement

[Todae Online Eco Store](#)

At Todae, we aim to create a new way of thinking, a new way of living, and a new way of feeling. We are about embracing sustainability without compromising comfort. We are about creating solutions for a sustainable future. Feel good about the choices you make. Feel something new, something captivating and something different. See how we can inspire you to create a brighter future. With over 2,500 products online we have Australia's largest range of ecologically sustainable products from super efficient LED lighting to eco homewares and energy & water saving products. Our range of eco products will help you to live life to its fullest and make a real and lasting difference.

Todae are also specialists in [solar power](#) and have provided hundreds of happy customers with Solar Power systems all across Australia since 2003. Todae also has Australia's largest range of [Solar Panels](#).

Letter to the Editor

Hey Frank,

I have an idea (though probably not too original!):

Create a HOPE stream on YouTube. This can have videos showing how one can be more sustainable - i.e. how to make compost with vegetable cuttings; what to recycle; plants to grow - fruit & vege; save money on power bills; solar panels; anything! (somewhat like better homes and gardens do!).

Facebook/myspace etc can be used also: page with links and forums to discuss. Easy to network this way. At the end of every video, the HOPE website link should come up to channel more people to the website. This is a growing area for networking, especially for younger generations. The best part it is anyone can add a video, so it becomes interactive. People who have some sustainable and clever ideas, and who are not necessarily a part of HOPE, can make a video and send it to us to post. With that in mind, a video and instructions on how to make videos should be made. I have a number of contacts who have developed their business using YouTube, and it is successful.

I hope I am not sounding annoying here, just some initial thoughts.

Thanks again,

Sam, from Ipswich, QLD

Dear Frank

I really enjoyed Andy Nicolson's presentation and H.O.P.E. handout at yesterday's Go Green Fair at Ocean View. Quite a fair crowd of "with it" participants but a good number of kids' activities for a large number of younger children.

Your "Low Carbon Living starts at home" is the best of its type I've seen to date.

Harry Johnson, Strathpine, QLD

Feature Articles

The Earth Charter Initiative

By Sam Manger, for HOPE Australia

There have been a number of great people and great movements in history that have created positive and necessary change. Perhaps one of the most well known of these great people is Nelson Mandela. As much as this great leader achieved alone, he achieved an unmeasurable amount more by working cooperatively with many members of local and global society. Without the constant determination of the hundreds of thousands of African and international citizens, Nelson Mandela could not have led the end of apartheid in South Africa. It is clear that the greatest social and political achievements have come about due to everyday people working together. Unlike Mandela, this vast majority of people do not have a title in the history books, but their achievements are no less substantial. An often unspoken truth at the dinner table is that as everyday citizens we hold the power to create and maintain positive global change. The Earth Charter Initiative (ECI) is one modern example of such a movement that can be further supported by any person who wants to make our global community a more sustainable and economically successful place.

The ECI has been developed over 20 years by global bodies (e.g. UNESCO) and citizens from almost every nation in the world, including Australia. Their goal was to create a realistic agreement that can promote the transition to sustainable ways of living in all facets of our society, through individuals, local communities, education systems, business and government bodies. This includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy, and a culture of peace. The Earth Charter, its global members, history, strategy and annual reports can be read at www.earthcharter.org.

The ECI was officially drafted 10 years ago, which involved the most inclusive and participatory process ever associated with the creation of an international declaration. The legitimacy of the document has been further enhanced by its endorsement by over 4,500 organisations, including many governments and international organisations.

The Earth Charter is a realistic inspiration. It challenges us and gives us the framework to examine our values and to choose a better way, to search for common ground in the midst of our diversity and to embrace a new global ethic that is shared by an ever-growing number of people throughout the world. It is irrelevant whether you believe "climate change" is due to human impact or not, as regardless of the causal link change is still necessary. The human impact has and continues to deplete the earth of natural resources. The truth of this and relevance to the Australian community can easily be found upon a little research into the Murray Darling Basin. This water produces 41% of our agriculture and provides 3.2 million Australians with drinking water; however, 95% of the water we use goes to irrigation. According to a report in 2002 compiled by members of CSIRO Land and Water and the Murray Darling Basin Commission the annual flow to the sea in 2002 was only 27% of its original value. Further research will tell you that 50-80% of wetlands in the Basin have been destroyed and native fish populations have declined to 10% their original number in some areas. Hence, the need for more sustainable living and business practices has never been greater, with Australia being the perfect place to further implement the ECI.

To reflect on what we have learnt and to plan for the future the Australia Pacific Earth Charter +10 Festival is being held in Brisbane, Queensland, from September the 16th to the 19th. The focus will be on our collective ability to respond to the major impacts of climate change, global challenges and regional conflicts in the Australia-Pacific region, using the values and principles of the Earth Charter as a way forward. The three day festival will focus on "inspiration, action and celebration" with speeches by international guests, such as Wangari Maathai (Nobel Peace Laureate) and international Indigenous leaders. Topics covered will focus on three different streams; school based sustainable practices, local community actions, and the role of business in accepting responsibility for the environment.

For more information on the festival go to; www.earthcharter.org.au or email festival@earthcharter.org.au.

Climate Action News

10 Lessons for the Climate Change Movement

Damien Lawson wrote an article titled "Looking back - moving forward: ten lessons for the climate movement" for the Climate Summit in 2009. He has now written a follow up piece '10 lessons for the climate movement' which presents some of the challenges and lessons that need to be addressed in the future. The '10 lessons' in this article address the following issues -

1. The need for common goals: There is a need to develop a common set of concrete goals for the climate movement and a positive, united agenda.
2. Transitional thinking: Transformations will not happen just because we wish for them. A transition will need to be built and often this will involve small and painful steps while not losing sight of the big goal or end aim."
3. Climate change is THE issue: Work on sustainability projects, conservation and social and human rights issues are important. Will this work all be futile if we do not concentrate on the big issue - climate change itself?
4. Harming the poor: The ravages of super-droughts and heat waves, bush fires and floods, sea level rises and other extreme weather and economic dislocation will fall disproportionately on Australia's poor
5. Warming to labour: Climate change is an existential problem for all of us, including all workers, a threat so great that for unions also it must become THE issue of our time. Some unions have been a barrier to action on climate change by opposing any attempts to curtail the coal industry
6. International rabbit hole: The Copenhagen conference has finally confirmed once and for all the bankruptcy of a strategy built around outcomes from international negotiations. We should never again allow our positions to be shackled to the success or otherwise of international negotiations; we have to build support for a solution on the power of community concern in Australia
7. Living with denial: We will never get rid of climate deniers, at least not before it is too late, and psychological denial deepens as the moment of truth nears. In one sense deniers and "climate-gate" have failed: more than 160 leaders attended an international conference on climate change in December 2009 and accepted that global warming is a real problem. However, in another sense, the deniers are gaining ground and we can no longer continue the de facto strategy of ignoring them.
8. Armed with peer-reviewed science: The return of the climate deniers highlights the importance of us all being willing to constantly update ourselves about the climate science. It is and was wrong to ever think that the debate/denial about the science is over.
9. Are they listening?: There is now a vast array of communications, messages and stories being told about climate change, often in contradictory and complicated ways. But the history of social movements, advertising and modern political communications teaches us that what gets through to the population at large is much more limited. We need some simple messages that correspond with our goals, and that we repeat ad nauseam, if we are to have an effect on public opinion.
10. Vote 'em where it hurts: Elections are stage managed, dominated by the big parties and often bring out the worst in our leaders and community, but they are also an opportunity to be heard, because peoples' eyes and ears are more open in an election year. More importantly, if we are able to make climate the issue in knife-edge seats, such that a minister or backbencher could be turfed out because they failed to listen to what the climate movement was advocating.

"We face a climate emergency which requires actions at emergency speed far beyond "business as usual" and "politics as usual" to bring a rapid transition to a post-carbon, safe-climate future." Read the full article at <http://climatecodered.blogspot.com/2010/05/10-lessons-for-climate-movement.html>

(Prepared by Lyn Spence, HOPE Member)

[UQ Sustainable University Project](#)

The University of Queensland is about to start construction of an innovative \$30m building which will employ sustainable design, construction and operational practices, and a 1.2MW solar array - Australia's largest.

[Solar Cooking](#)

Sun power is useful for more than hot water and solar electricity as Pascal Goux explains in his article on solar parabolic cooking.

[Green Business Courses](#)

Ecofund Queensland is proud to announce the dates of its 2010 executive training courses 'Carbon 101' and 'Carbon - Advanced Management and Measurement'. These cutting-edge courses are delivered in Brisbane via a unique partnership between government policy-makers, industry leaders, market players and world-leading university research specialists from the carbon and energy industries.

[Our oil dependence](#)

Oil doesn't merely lubricate our machines; it literally drives our modern mechanised world. It's the blood that courses through the veins of today's civilisation, and we rely so much on it, to sometimes devastating effects.

[CO2 effects on plants increases global warming](#)

Trees and other plants help keep the planet cool, but rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are turning down this global air conditioner. According to a new study by researchers at the Carnegie Institution for Science, in some regions more than a quarter of the warming ...

[Greening our cities one building at a time](#)

Of Australia's 21 million square metres of existing office stock, 81 per cent is more than ten years old. That's a huge opportunity for green retrofits. In Melbourne, two thirds of the city's commercial buildings are receiving a sustainability overhaul, with the '1200 Buildings' program aiming to cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 380,000 tonnes a year. Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said it would bring a 'green gold rush' by generating around \$1.3 billion in economic activity.

[HomeGrown Documentary](#)

HOMEGROWN follows the Dervaes family who run a small organic farm in the heart of urban Pasadena, California. While "living off the grid", they harvest over 6,000 pounds of produce on less than a quarter of an acre, make their own bio diesel, and power their computers with the help of solar panels.

[Solar Power in Ontario Could Produce Almost as Much Power as All U.S. Nuclear Reactors](#)

Science Daily, 16 April 2010

Solar power in south-eastern Ontario has the potential to produce almost the same amount of power as all the nuclear reactors in the United States, according to two studies conducted by the Queen's University Applied Sustainability Research Group located in Kingston, Canada.

Recognising the true value of biochar through commercialisation and policy development



Biochar is currently riding high on the political and environmental agenda. Key political figures are promoting it as the next "black gold" with its ability to reduce carbon emissions and provide a means of keeping climate change in check.

[More>>](#)

Queensland

Please help promote Breeder Permits and Cat Safe Enclosures to help keep cats and wildlife safe
Gold Coast City Council and AWL Qld in conjunction with all stakeholders including Wildcare Australia have been working as the Gold Coast Companion Animal Stakeholder Coalition for the last 16 months to introduce 2 important initiatives to reduce the oversupply of cats. The first initiative is Breeder Permits and a Code of Practice to set standards of care. This will not only help prevent poor standard breeding but also require kittens to be desexed prior to sale or transfer at 10 weeks of age.

The second initiative is to introduce a Cat Safe Fencing Campaign which is about to run for 2 months and will hopefully be ready by May/June, 2010.

Wildcare Australia is seeking your help with this campaign to educate cat owners about how they can keep their cats safely in their own yard through a range of options, from keeping cats indoors to cat safe fencing and enclosures. Detailed information about the range of options and a competition to win cat safe fencing will be on the AWL Qld website www.awlqld.com.au and Gold Coast City Council website when the campaign starts. The options include indoors only, outdoor enclosures attached to the house with a cat flap, and inverted or roller attachments to fencing for part of the yard. AWL Qld are also setting up a display of the options at their Coombabah and Stapylton Rehoming Centres.

This program will also emphasise new State requirements to microchip and register cats so that, if cats do escape, they can be returned straight to their owners by the public or Animal Management Officers, rather than be impounded. Currently, 89% of cats that come into the Gold Coast pound are unclaimed by their owners, compared with only 25% of dogs unclaimed.

Please help spread the word on responsible cat care.

Advertorial

An innovation for Australian fruit tree gardeners

Australian company **Cityfood Growers** has just released what it believes to be the first gardening web site in the world that integrates detailed local climate information with the climate profile of fruit trees.

The web site at www.cityfoodgrowers.com.au stores climate information for every state, city and town in Australia. This is combined with climate profiles of over 700 cultivars of the 40 most common fruit tree crops grown in all climate zones of Australia. The fruit tree cultivar information has been collected from a range of sources including Australian fruit tree breeders and Government agricultural bodies. The web site also includes community features to connect site users and an online market where subscribers can post their locally grown food.

Cityfood Growers focuses its organic gardening educational services on hobby food gardeners, communities and schools. The company, based in Brisbane, was founded by Peter Kearney, an experienced organic and biodynamic gardener, educator and technologist. Peter also has a blog where he regularly posts gardening articles, such as '[How to choose fruit trees for your climate](#)', '[How to use mulch in your organic garden](#)', and '[Impact of the moon on moisture](#).'

For more information, contact Peter Kearney, peter@cityfoodgrowers.com.au or 0401 156 532.

Legal Help on Environmental Matters

The **Environmental Defenders Office Qld** is a non-profit community legal centre specialising in public interest planning and environmental law. The EDO Qld:

- Provides free legal advice, assistance and information to the Queensland community through its employed solicitors and a team of volunteers;
- Educates the community on planning and environmental laws; and
- Advocates for improvements to Queensland's planning and environmental laws.

So ring or email the EDO if you have a public interest environmental legal query. For example, last year EDO provided legal advice to a Toowoomba citizen about the illegal clearing of bird habitat on Lake Apex. Contact EDO on 3211 4466 or edoqld@edo.org.au.

National

Biodiversity is the key to the future

You may not realise it, but biodiversity is essential to the priceless functions that ecosystems have for human civilisation.

Australia among worst polluters in the world

Australia has earned the dubious honour of being in the top 10 countries with the worst environmental impact on the planet, according to a major international study of more than 200 nations.

National Waste Report 2010

The National Waste Report 2010 was launched on 7 May 2010. The report presents key information on waste management and resource recovery and draws on a range of published sources, commissioned research and information from states and territories. It is the first step towards establishing baseline data and developing a comprehensive account of waste issues which can be used by industry, government and the community to make informed and timely decisions. As well as presenting national, state and territory waste data, the report discusses: the costs and impacts of landfill; recycling; hazardous waste; organic waste and litter; and describes how we managed waste in the past, our current arrangements and emerging issues and trends. The report also examines the quality of our data on waste and recycling. A high resolution version of the report is available on CD from the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. To request a copy, please email wastepolicy@environment.gov.au or visit <http://www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/89>

GeneEthics Network - selected items from *GM-free News, May 2010*

Food, Inc. (Incorporated) documentary film opens May 20 nationally

This feature-length documentary movie is a compelling eye-opener about the harm done by industrial farming and food, with a focus on GM. Though set in the USA, its key messages are also highly relevant to the safety, sovereignty, security and sustainability of our food supply. Every aspect of Australia's food production, processing and promotion systems are now mainly foreign owned - a branch office of global food incorporated. Food regulation is weak so our vigilance is essential.

Monsanto's Roundup tolerant GM sugar beet is also under challenge by NGOs in the USA. A federal judge in San Francisco found the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) had not ensured GM sugar beets are safe and ordered USDA to do an Environmental Impact Statement on the crop's safety.

A Productivity Commission inquiry into rural Research & Development has released a [draft report](#) for public comment. Our submission will advocate an end to the waste of billions of dollars on GM crop and food research and the need for a focus on lower cost and higher outcome sustainable farming systems for a safe, sustainable and secure GM-free future.

GM-free networking - virtually and literally

Gene Ethics' media liaison officer Vivienne, webmaster Shane and GM-free map manager Jessica are renovating the website to be more up-to-date and user friendly. Some changes are already in place and there will be more soon. Your feedback is welcome. Check out Gene Ethics new-look [website](#).

Australia's GM-free advocates launched the GM-free Australia Alliance in February. Other groups with a commitment to GM-free are welcome to join. Please visit the [GM-free Australia website](#).

Surveys find most farmers reject GM crops

A Weekly Times newspaper random survey of 1,000 growers in Victoria published on February 24 found just 37% of farmers say 'yes' to growing GM crops. A Kondinin Group survey also found just 51% of its members support GM crops - an inflated result from a biased sample - not a ringing endorsement.

South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory all remain staunchly GM-free. They know GM canola will irreversibly contaminate supply chains, taking away everyone's right to reap the rewards of our competitive advantage, selling clean, green and GM-free foods into local and global markets.

NRM / Landcare News

(Sourced from Queensland and national landcare newsletters)

Publications, Reports, Information

Acid Sulphate Soils newsletter

ASSAY is a free national quarterly electronic newsletter about current acid sulfate soil issues. The newsletter is funded by the Australian Government and is available on the Industry & Investment NSW website. Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/periodicals/newsletters/assay

A Farmer's Guide to Increasing Soil Organic Carbon Under Pastures

The guide is based on findings from a three year project investigating soil carbon levels in pastures under different management systems in south east NSW. To download a free PDF version visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/resources/soils/soil-carbon/increasing-soil-organic-carbon-farmers-guide

Bush Book: A Manual for Managing Native Vegetation Across the Northern Territory

Greening Australia has published *Bush Book*. Copies are available for purchase at www.greeningaustralia.org.au

Subscribe to free updates from Landcare Australia Ltd

To receive Landlink, The Junior Landcarer, The Coastcarer and other updates from Landcare Australia Ltd, register your details online at www.landcareonline.com.au by filling out the "Subscribe with us" section on the home page.

2010 Mobile Muster Schools Recycling Challenge

Registrations are now open for the 2010 Mobile Muster Schools Recycling Challenge, an initiative of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association. For further information and to register visit www.mobilemuster.com.au/school_challenge

CVA Green Schools Connect

Green Schools Connect is a partnership between Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Vodafone Australia Foundation. It enables schools to get the extra hands for their environmental projects such as creating a native bush food garden or monitoring frog populations. **Closing date 30 June 2010**. For further information and application details visit

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au/greenschoolsconnect OR Freecall 1800 032 501

Australian Rural Leadership Program

The Australian Rural Leadership Foundation develops and supports leaders to advance the viability and sustainability of rural Australia. Applications are now open for Course 18 of the Program. **Applications close 31 July 2010**. Visit www.rural-leaders.com.au

Awards & Training

2010 Banksia Awards now open

The 2010 Banksia Awards are open for entry. **All entries close on the 2 Aug 2010**. For information on awards categories, contacts or to download a kit visit www.banksiafdn.com

Environmental Events

7th National Wildlife Rehabilitation Conference will be held from the 22-24 June at Adelaide. Visit <http://nwrc.com.au/nwrcsa/index.html>

19th World Congress on Soil Science will be held from the 1-6 Aug 2010 at Brisbane. Visit www.19wcsc.org.au

National Farmers Federation Congress will be held from the 5-7 Sep at Melbourne. Visit <http://congress.nff.org.au>

5th Lake Eyre Basin Biennial Conference will be held from the 13-15 Sep 2010 at Alice Springs. Visit www.lebmf.gov.au

Australian Forest Growers National Conference 2010 will be held from the 10-13 Oct at Mt Gambier SA. Visit www.afg.asn.au

3rd National Indigenous Land & Sea Management Conference will be held from 19-22 Oct at Broken Hill, NSW. Contact Mark Sutton on 0432 293 445 or email mutawintjimurdi@yahoo.com.au

Positions Vacant

As HOPE continues to expand its reach state-wide and nationally, we are being asked to do more and more. Consequently, we are looking to bolster our Management Team with volunteers in the following areas:

- Media Coordinator / Team
- E:news Team
- Website Team
- Membership Officer
- Events & Information Displays Team
- Marketing & Public Relations

If you have some spare time and talents, then please contact the HOPE office by phone on (07) 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

A fair portion of the above work needs to be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area). However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, publications activity can be done via email.

Resources

Web resources

The Daily Climate (TDC) is an American based website which works to increase public understanding on climate disruption, including its scope and scale, potential solutions and the political processes that impede or advance them. The site provides daily climate news and analysis with reports and a round-up of the day's top climate orientated headlines. The website has articles, editorials and opinion pieces divided across the pages of Causes, Consequences, Solutions, Politics, Energy, Science, Adaption, Economics, Sea Level and Adaption. The Daily Climate reports the news of the day, irrespective of the opinion or viewpoint expressed, or whether or not material in the article is consistent with the understanding of current science. There are often several articles from different newspapers covering the same story, as well as multiple editorials and op-eds about the same subject. This approach is based on the belief that readers of DailyClimate.org want to see a wide range of how issues are being covered by the mainstream press. To read more on these issues go to the website at <http://www.dailyclimate.org/>

Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) is a not-for-profit organisation which represents and supports an increasing number of Australian organic farmers and businesses who are focused on providing food that is produced in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. The BFA website lists resources for consumer, industry and the media as well as publications, merchandise and organic cooking and gardening books. The site has news on organic nutrition, articles, campaigns and a list of outlets from around Australia that stock a range of certified organic products and produce. For a wealth of information on everything organic go to http://www.bfa.com.au/index.asp?Sec_ID=235

The **Queensland Bushfood Association** website promotes the growing, use and research and development of Australian native plant foods in the state. The site also lists contacts, meetings, joining information and links to member products, services, publications, weblinks and downloadable bulletins with plant profiles, recipes and general bushfood information. Go to <http://www.qldbushfood.com/> for more information.

The **Housing Industry Association (HIA)** is Australia's largest residential building organisation - *GreenSmart* is the registered brand of the HIA that aims to encourage consumers and builders to apply its principles in the design, building and construction of new homes and renovations. The aim of *GreenSmart* is to develop, demonstrate and promote technologies, design principles and practices to help improve the quality of Australia's homes and their environments. It focuses on educating builders, designers, manufacturers and consumers about the benefits of environmentally responsible housing and helps businesses to adopt and use best practice environmental management approaches as part of their day-to-day practice. The website for *Greensmart* has links to news, information, marketing, awards and guidance notes on construction; health and safety; workplace services; business; financial and building & planning information. An interactive map allows website users to click onto their own state to find information on events, training sessions and specials relevant to their own area. For further information, see the *GreenSmart* website at <http://hia.com.au/hia/channel/builder/region/national/classification/greensmart.aspx>.

Did you know that cigarette butts can last up to 5 years in the sea?!

Helpful hints and tips

Hints and tips for energy efficiency in the kitchen when cooking:

From the Shoppe Newsletter, <http://theshoppe.com.au/>

- Use a minimum amount of high heat when cooking - when the food has reached boiling point turn the heat source down.
- Cook vegetables in the least possible amount of water.
- Cook as much food as possible in one pot instead of numerous energy consuming pots.
- Turn off the heat a few minutes before the food is fully cooked.
- Use pans and pots which fully cover the burner or hot plate.
- Check the oven door seals. If a piece of paper remains in the oven door when closed the seals are working effectively. If not then new oven door seals are recommended.
- Pressure cookers reduce cooking time by nearly two thirds saving both heat and energy.
- Use the oven to full capacity by cooking as many dishes as possible while the oven is in use.
- Use small appliances for small jobs. For example: a covered frypan can be just as effective as the oven for some dishes or use the electric toaster in preference to the stove griller.
- It is more energy efficient to slow cook some food in comparison with the stove burner or hot plate.
- If possible turn the oven off 15 minutes before cooking has finished. The stored oven heat will be sufficient to complete the cooking process.
- Keep the stove clean - particularly the burners and hot plate reflectors.
- Use 'hand-power' whenever possible to save on energy consuming appliances. e.g.: whisk, mash, grind, whip, open cans, grate, slice, etc. - by hand.
- A microwave uses less energy for reheating food than the stove top or oven.
- Try different more energy efficient cooking methods - such as steaming, wok cooking, bamboo steamer, barbeque, etc.

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

If you do not wish to receive this e:news bulletin, please email 'unsubscribe e:news' to office@hopeaustralia.org.au