



Householder's Options to Protect the Environment Inc.
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HOPE E-news Bulletin #32, 22 March 2010

Hi everyone,

Here at HOPE we are increasingly busy with our preparations for Gardenfest Toowoomba (see article). It is great fun to get out of the office for this event and prepare garden beds and other showcase projects. We are also looking into promoting the "Transition Towns" concept throughout the Toowoomba Regional Council area. Andrew has prepared an informative article about the [transitions towns initiative](#) and how it could be utilised in Toowoomba. All very exciting! Enjoy the bulletin.

Miriam Sharp

Secretary - office@hopeaustralia.org.au

"Well done is better than well said.", by Benjamin Franklin

Office news

The HOPE office team would like to express their appreciation and thanks to their website manager Stephen Warburton and secretary and e:news bulletin editor Miriam Sharp for the tremendous job they have done in revamping the website layout and refreshing the content. Thank you both for working so hard on our behalf - the results are impressive and your expertise and hard work is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to take the opportunity to invite our members, supporters and friends to visit our updated website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/> to see the wide range of information that is now available at the site. Read about the projects, campaigns, events and useful tips; take the latest poll or interact and share your thoughts online. We always welcome feedback so we encourage you to forward contributions or let us know what you think could be added or changed on the site. Please forward your thoughts, suggestions or enquiries to the HOPE office at office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Planning for HOPE's display at Gardenfest almost complete

HOPE's preparations for *Gardenfest 2010* (1-3 May) are almost complete with the following displays & activities confirmed:

- Information display - HOPE, Friends of Escarpment Parks & others
- Square foot gardening bed - Neil Tracey-Smith
- The Meter Man - David von Pein
- Composting (incl. bins & tumbler) / Worm farms (various types)- Neil T-S & Terry Ryan
- Chook tractor - Ian Simons
- Companion planting / Seed Bank / Container gardening- Jan Rankin
- Biodynamic/Organic Gardening - Peter Kearney, City Food Growers

Additional volunteers are needed to staff HOPE's combined display & activities area.

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

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:

- Admin assistant
- 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.

Clean Up Australia Event, 7 March 2010

Despite earlier inclement weather, Sunday's clean-up event went ahead after all.

The rain stayed away and the students from the Glennie School & St Mary's College turned up on time to help. They were able to completely clean up Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Toowoomba 32 Area (bounded by James St, West St, Margaret St, Hill St & Anzac Ave).

3 x 240lt wheelie bins of rubbish were collected and 1 x 240lt wheelie bin of recyclables.

Thanks to Bunnings Warehouse & NHW Tmba 32 for supplying the gloves; Allied Flour Mills for providing the poly bags; and to various people & businesses for supplying the food & drink.



The Toowoomba Region in Transition? Exploring the potential of the Transition Towns initiative

By Andrew Nicholson, HOPE Climate Educator

Throughout 2009, HOPE received information on a number of developing Transition Towns initiatives within Australia. A Transition Town is, at base, a community sustainable development strategy energised by a concern to address the twin drivers of human induced climate change (global warming) and Peak Oil. Peak Oil is the idea that we have either already reached, or will reach within the next decade or so, the situation where economically recoverable sources of oil are exceeded by demand. Many of the key operating principles and values of the Transition philosophy derive from these twin concerns. For example, the need to build 'resilience' into re-localised communities that are more self-reliant and less dependent on globalised goods and services.

As quite a lot of Transition Towns activities and strategies are already covered by HOPE's charter and projects in one way or another, it was suggested that we should attempt to galvanize our own, local regional community's development efforts under the banner of Transition Towns. And the Transition Towns process does appear to have gone 'viral' in a short time period: with hundreds of projects mushrooming internationally in the 5 or so years since the first Transition Town initiative was launched in Kinsale, in SW Ireland. It was exciting to consider the possibilities of leveraging local community interest in the Toowoomba Regional Council area against this rapidly growing Global interest in sustainable community development.

Accordingly, an initial scoping meeting was held at HOPE in February 2010 between management committee members and Dr. Karey Harrison, USQ, to assist us in developing a proposal to utilise the Transition Towns concept/model for the Toowoomba Regional Council area.

At time of going to press this Transitions proposal is still being refined but we expect that it will be circulated to HOPE members for comment and feedback in the near future.

Climate Action News

Changes to RET Scheme

The federal government announced last week that it will be dividing its Renewable Energy Target scheme into two parts: the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) and the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET). [Read more...](#)

PV installation at Coca Cola Amatil

Coca Cola Amatil have installed a 110 kilowatt photovoltaic system at their operations in Blacktown, with assistance from Blacktown Solar City. The installation will provide more than 15 per cent of the distribution centre's energy needs generating 148 megawatt hours of clean renewable energy every year, which translates into a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 148 tonnes annually.

The project exemplifies how vacant roof space can be turned into an environmentally responsible investment.

(Sourced from Solarise, Issue 4, February 2010)

Carbon all talk after Copenhagen

The International Solid waste Associations' White Paper on Waste & Climate Change, released ahead of the UN climate summit in Copenhagen, claimed developed countries can achieve net emission savings of 20% by investing in the waste industry. To download a copy of report visit

https://www.iswa.org/en/290/iswa_publications_detailview/publicationdetail/iswa-white-paper-on-waste-and-climate-change.html

Arctic methane warming danger

A new study has found huge amounts of potent, climate-warming methane leaking from frozen stores. [Read more...](#)

Plugging in to a Low-Carbon Roadway

LONDON: Thousands of electric charging points are to be installed in streets and car parks to create up to six "electric car cities" and regions across the United Kingdom. [Read more...](#)

Solar Powered Rickshaws For Commonwealth Games

1,000 solar powered rickshaws are to help reduce transport related greenhouse gas emissions during the upcoming 2010 Commonwealth Games in India. [Read more...](#)

Updates on Upcoming Events

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

Climate Change - An Economic Challenge

The next lecture in the QUT Faculty of Law Free Public Lecture Series is on **12 April**. Senator Penny Wong will be speaking. The lecture will cover the programmes and policies of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS); Renewable Energy Target (RET) and Energy Efficiency. Register by 29 March 2010 by email to qutlawpubliclectures@qut.edu.au Registered attendees may claim 1 CPD point for the Queensland Bar Association and Queensland Law Society.

Bremer River Forum will take place at the Metro Hotel Ipswich International, on Thursday **15 April 2010**. More information is available from <http://wforum.squarespace.com/bremer-river-forum/>

'Strengthening Rural Women' Forum 17th April 2010

Who is up for a challenge? Are you ready to be trained as an Agent for Change? The North East Downs Landcare Women are taking the challenge and charge other women to do the same. The 'Agents for Change' one-day forum will build skills enabling rural women to be problem solvers and action takers in their own community.

The forum will feature local & regional women who are agents for change. Topics will range from the impact of climate change - on- farm, on-community to personal development and fashion parade. The forum will be followed up with 2 On-ground detecting days.

This event is supported by the Department of Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry under Australia's Farming Future.

Cost: \$10; Where: Oakey Cultural Centre; Contact: Glenys 0428 751 070, info@nedlandcare.org.au

<p>Gardenfest, 1-3 May, TAFE Toowoomba. Info at http://www.gardenfesttoowoomba.com.au</p>
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Knowledge for managing Australian landscapes — the legacy of Land & Water Australia

conference, 18-19 May: In collaboration with Triple Helix Consulting, ARRC is convening this two-day conference which will reflect on the legacy of Land & Water Australia research, think about how this research can inform the future, bring people together in a content-rich celebration, and highlight some recent work that is yet to bear fruit. For more details please visit our new website

www.rrc.com.au

Local News

Heritage Building Society helps plot record *Gardenfest*

The first event on the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers' calendar, Heritage Building Society *Gardenfest*, is set to be bigger than ever. *Gardenfest* has been running in Toowoomba for almost 30 years and continues to be first to showcase new trends, plant releases and innovations. Guest speakers Colin Campbell and Annette McFarlane will be speaking during the weekend and a host of exciting entertainment and workshops are being programmed. Toowoomba Regional Council is a long-time supporter of *Gardenfest*, which is organised by the Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland. There are anticipated to be around 100 stallholders at Heritage Building Society *Gardenfest* - The Gardening and Gourmet Weekend at Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Campbell Street on May 1, 2 and 3 which will cater for all needs. Food, wine, gifts, nursery and gardening products will be on display and for sale as well as local guest speakers including Brian Sams and Justin Russell.

Registrations are now open for stallholders to participate. Heritage Building Society *Gardenfest* is supported by major sponsors Heritage Building Society, Toowoomba Regional Council, Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, Nursery & Garden Industry Queensland and Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

For more information contact Emily Murphy, Event Co-Coordinator Heritage Building Society *Gardenfest* - The Gardening and Gourmet Weekend, ph 0419 747 423 or www.gardenfesttoowoomba.com.au

Darling Downs Solar Neighbourhood Project - <http://www.exsolar.com.au/Solar-Neighbourhood.php>

Local Schools Carbon Smart Arts Project receives funding

Cambooya Landcare Association has received a State Government Natural Resources Awareness Grant 2010 - Reducing our carbon footprint. The funding will assist schools in the Cambooya area to create and present their vision of a future carbon intelligent community with the assistance of a local "Artist in Residence".

Students' work will be based on a unit of work focused on energy production and consumption, Greenhouse Gas emissions, climate change and global warming. They will be able to use any media they choose to present their vision: live performance, demonstration, model, IT presentation or literature. It's only limited by their imagination! Final artistic works will be presented at a combined school interactive Environment Day where schools will showcase their work. This event will be held in late May 2010. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to learn from each other in helping look after our planet.

If you are an artist with a passion to work with our schools on carbon smart living and would like more information, please contact Alex at Cambooya Landcare on 4696 1644 on Tuesdays or John on 0417 303 612.

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.

Queensland News

Environmental Grants for QLD Schools - <http://deta.qld.gov.au/yes/grants.html>

Eco efficiency rebates now available for QLD businesses

[ecoBiz](#) is the Department of Environment and Resource Management's signature partnership program with Queensland business and industry. The 12-month program assists businesses to identify efficiencies in waste, water and energy for financial and environmental benefits using a simple six step methodology for identifying and measuring water, energy and material resource saving opportunities. Participants in the program can potentially become ecoBiz Partners with the Department once they have completed their six steps and demonstrated eco-efficient improvements. Rebates (up to \$150,000 (conditions apply)) are now available for businesses participating in the program where they can clearly demonstrate the benefits of conserving, reusing and recycling resources, energy and water through innovative and best practice technologies within their industry. For more information about the ecoBiz program please contact Toowoomba based ecoBiz Facilitator, Nigel Kimball from Yarramine Environmental on (07) 4638 2442 or by email at nigel@yarramine.com.au.

National News

Launceston Airport recycling launch

Through the PSF's (packaging Stewardship Forum) Airport Program, Launceston Airport has recently rolled out 20 new recycling bins and signage throughout the airport as well as outside bin stations in the drop off area enabling the 1.2 million passengers flying in and out of the airport each year to Do the Right Thing, Use the Right Bin. Installation of the new systems follows a \$20M international terminal expansion which includes enhanced departure and arrival procedures, baggage carousels, new passenger lounge and screening facilities. By the end of June this year, the PSF will have installed new recycling systems at 13 of Australia's largest airports - providing access to recycling to 94 per cent (or 73 million) of passenger visits annually.

The **Australian Youth Climate Coalition** is a coalition of Australia's largest youth organisations and over 50,000 young people from across Australia. The AYCC is one of Australia's few examples of an entirely youth-run and youth-led organisation. Their mission is to build a generation wide movement to solve climate change before it's too late through bringing about short-term political impact and long term cultural change. Through a carefully targeted strategy, they aim to help communicate the facts on climate change, along with a sense of hope that solutions are available. By empowering the generation most threatened by climate change to be front and centre in solving it, they intend to make this an urgent and mainstream issue for society as a whole. Find out more about their actions and campaigns at <http://www.aycc.org.au/>.

Green Cross Australia works with Australian communities addressing major environmental issues like rising sea levels, renewable power and extreme weather (e.g. floods, fire, storms and drought) and works toward achieving a global shift in values towards a peaceful sustainable and secure future. Green Cross Australia recognises that in making decisions for a sustainable future the solutions must be balanced, fair and equitable. For further information on Green Cross and contact details visit their website at <http://www.greencrossaustralia.org/> or phone them at their Brisbane office on (07) 3003 0644

Stormwater harvesting gains ground

An innovative and holistic initiative has been tested in the NSW town of Orange for the past year. The council was the first in NSW to adopt harvested stormwater on a large scale in preference of individual rainwater tanks. This processed water is then reticulated back into the town supply and has huge potential to ease water shortage problems. [Read more...](#)

General

Be Smart, Be Active, *Bb Michelle Smith*

Over the next four years, the Queensland Government will invest \$8.1 million towards increased sustainability by encouraging active travelling through the TravelSmart program- a part of the revised climate change initiative, ClimateQ.

Through the promotion of TravelSmart Workplaces and events and improved walking and cycling networks, the Government aims to reduce the use of private transport; thereby decreasing harmful gas emissions. TravelSmart encourages people to participate in the program by becoming active travellers.

Sustainable travel options will be promoted in participating workplaces through Sustainable Travel Plans (STPs). Available online through the Department of Transport and Main Roads, the STPs target existing travel problems and provide strategies on how individuals (both employees and employers) can respond responsibly to them.

The concept is similar to the TravelSmart Schools' program which has already been trialled in some schools successfully. Once problems such as traffic congestion, parking difficulties, related health problems and absenteeism have been identified, web-based tools and the TravelSmart staff will advise workplaces of the options available to address them. Some of these may include car-pooling, cycling, walking and the use of public transport. By being actively involved in transport, both employers and employees will be contributing to decreased dependency on private cars and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Some of the many benefits of the STPs include a reduction of staff stress levels; increase in productivity; decrease in staff absenteeism with improved health and a reduction in traffic congestion around the workplace. For the employee, there should be a significant reduction in private vehicle costs and improved lifestyle as well.

To support this initiative, the Government is also further expanding existing infrastructures so that people can make the transition to active travelling more easily. The Goodwill Bridge and the South East Freeway Bikeway have already demonstrated the success of active travelling in Brisbane. Further active transport networks will be introduced over the next four years to encourage walking and cycling, thereby significantly lowering private transport use.

Workplaces and individuals are encouraged to get behind the TravelSmart initiative by adopting STPs and becoming active travellers. You can do this by logging on to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (www.transportandmainroads.qld.gov.au) or by accessing www.climatechange.qld.gov.au for more information about actions you can take to be an active participant in the promotion of a greener Queensland.

Travel better. Travel smart for a sustainable future.

Advertisement

Conscious Cleaning

Cleaning without chemicals has never been easier! You can now get a range of Premium Ultra Microfibre Cleaning Cloths called "Just Cloths". The principal is to clean without the use of chemicals. These cloths are screenprinted with a logo done in a vegetable based dye. The bands and all literature are printed by Q Print in Nambour, using soy based inks and sustainably farmed paper products. This business supports local businesses on the Sunshine Coast in Qld. For more information, go to <http://consciousclean.com.au/> .

Landcare News

Landcare Queensland provides training, resources and funding for landcarers across the state of Queensland. It is a uniquely Australian partnership between the community, government and business to 'do something practical' about protecting and repairing the state environment. Landcare volunteers repair and viably manage precious natural resources and are achieving great things like preserving native flora and fauna and managing issues like drought, salinity, weeds and pests. Landcare Queensland has also developed a Junior Landcare activity program which gives students the opportunity to participate and experience the environment in and out of classroom setting. For further details visit the website at <http://www.landcare.org.au/> . There is also contact information as well as projects, grants and funding, a bookshop and a host of materials and resources for the public, schools and community groups.

Range of Landcare related papers available

An extensive range of Landcare papers and information can be accessed at the Australian Agriculture and Natural Resources On-line (AANRO) website. Visit www.aanro.net/ATOZ.html,svPg=45

Resources

Web resources

National recycling hotline busts recycling myths

A hotline and website are available to help people learn more about the benefits of recycling and to better understand the facts. Information can be obtained by visiting the [recycling website](#) or phone the National Recycling Hotline, 1300 733 712.

Diggers Australia

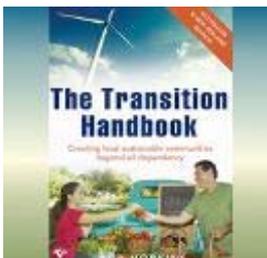
It's time to DIY in the garden, grow your own fresh, chemical free food and share the joy with your friends and family. If you care about what you put in your mouth and want to lead a healthy and self-sufficient lifestyle then Diggers can show you how. Diggers is Australia's largest gardening club providing information and advice as well as the best range of heirloom vegetable seeds, fruit trees, perennial, books and tools by mail order. Enjoy your garden, grow your own food, be more self-sufficient, be inspired! Get more information or shop online now at <http://www.diggers.com.au/> .

State of the Climate Report - CSIRO

Australia's two lead climate science agencies - the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology - have produced a snapshot of the state of the climate to update Australians about how their climate has changed and what it means. Go to <http://www.csiro.au/resources/State-of-the-Climate.html>

Book reviews

The Transition Handbook



A global social experiment has been developing to create sustainable communities and is a recent response to challenges posed by climate change and peak oil. The Transition Handbook is an ambitious resource that begins with setting out the background to the movement and profiles a number of transition initiatives in the UK, NZ and Australia.

[Read more...](#)

New book 'The Big Picture' by David Suzuki and Robert Taylor

Go to <http://www.sustainableinsight.com.au/shop/the-big-picture-by-david-suzuki-and-robert-taylor.html>

Helpful hints and tips

Numerous things we can do to help save our planet - part 3

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.

Water:

- Use less water all round.
- Shower rather than bath.
- Turn off taps (and dripping taps).
- Put out a water container in your garden to catch rainwater.
- Install a rainwater tank.
- Process grey water.

Food:

- Don't waste food; use left-overs for your next meal/s.
- Eat less meat.
- Avoid buying products containing palm oil.
- Eat seasonally - fresh foods.
- Go 'urban foraging' - look for fruit trees in the area in which you live; if you see fruit not being picked and used, ask the owner if you can pick some for your own use.

Travel:

- Share cars; form car-pooling groups.
- Don't rent a car - travel as the locals do
- Cut down on producing car emissions - use your car only when you have to and use the best fuel for reducing pollution.
- Ride your bike.
- Catch a bus when you can.
- Cut down weight loads in your car (remove boxes, excess baggage etc.).
- Don't convert your garden into parking space to fit in your 4x4. Get a front drive car and keep your garden intact.
- Fly economy class, not business or first class.

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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