



# February 2023



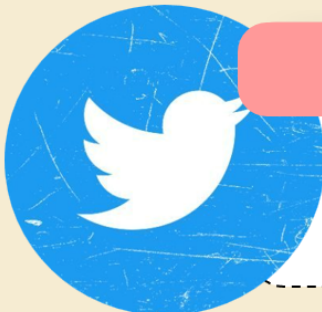
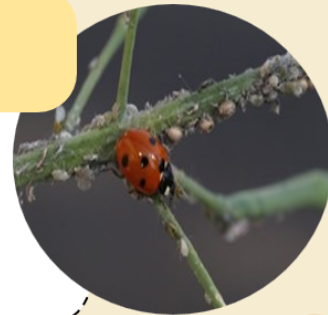
## *Farming in the city*

Gleanr is an Australian initiative encouraging capacity-building in urban agriculture. Find out how urban agriculture can support food resilience and foster many other benefits to human wellbeing.



## *Tell bugs to bug-off! ... Naturally!*

Did you know plants such as lavender or eucalyptus can ward off damaging bug species from vegetable plants? Find out how you can remove pests naturally with Integrated pest management.



## *We are on Twitter!*

Find us at:  
[@hope\\_inc\\_au](https://twitter.com/hope_inc_au)

## *Editorial*

As the year gets underway, we turn our focus to the innovative ideas and pioneering groups that help to reduce our negative impact on the environment and conserve the precious resources that we have.

This month's issue is packed with brilliant and insightful articles from our volunteer researchers, considering the importance of integrating nature into buildings, farming and city planning to improve the health and wellbeing of people and neighbourhoods. As always, we welcome your thoughts on these articles or on any issues you would like to raise.

*Regards,  
Daniela Dal'Castel, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.*



**Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.**  
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 435  
(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)  
Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)  
Website: [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment](https://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment)  
ABN 48 036 173 161

## HOPE E-news Bulletin 2023 #02 --- February 2023

*The following items have been gathered from various e: newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) . Deadline for articles is 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.*

### Editorial

*Happy February!*

*As the year gets underway, we turn our focus to the innovative ideas and pioneering groups that help to reduce our negative impact on the environment and conserve the precious resources that we have.*

*This month's issue is packed with brilliant and insightful articles from our volunteer researchers, considering the importance of integrating nature into buildings, farming and city planning to improve the health and wellbeing of people and neighbourhoods. As always, we welcome your thoughts on these articles or on any issues you would like to raise.*

*Regards,  
Daniela Dal'Castel, Newsletter Editor – HOPE Inc.*

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## 2023 Environmental Observances

### February

- 2 [World Wetlands Day](#)
- 10-11 [International Day of Women & Girls in Science](#)
- 11 **HOPE quarterly meeting: Strategic Planning exercise**
- 28 [Business Clean Up Day](#)

### March

- 3 [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 3 [Schools Clean Up Day](#)
- 4-12 [SeaWeek](#)
- 4-12 [Parks Week](#)
- 5 [Clean Up Australia Day](#)
- 18 [Global Recycling Day](#)
- 20-26 [National Water Week](#)
- 21 [International Day of Forests](#)
- 27Mar-2Apr [Sustainable Seafood Week](#)
- 22 [World Water Day](#)
- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 24 [National Ride2School Day](#)
- 25 [Earth Hour](#)

### April

- Apr-May [Australian Heritage Festival](#)
  - 18 [World Heritage Day](#)
  - 22 [Earth Day](#)
  - 25 [World Penguin Day](#)
-

## 2023 Environmental Events Calendar

(Sourced from the Australian Government - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/stay-informed/events> )

2023 has been designated the International Year of Millets - [www.fao.org/millets-2023/en](http://www.fao.org/millets-2023/en)

### February

- 2 [World Wetlands Day](#)
- 10-11 [International Day of Women & Girls in Science](#)
- 28 [Business Clean Up Day](#)

### March

- 3 [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 3 [Schools Clean Up Day](#)
- 4-12 [SeaWeek](#)
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- 23 [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 24 [National Ride2School Day](#)
- 25 [Earth Hour](#)

### April

- Apr-May [Australian Heritage Festival](#)
- 18 [World Heritage Day](#)
- 22 [Earth Day](#)
- 25 [World Penguin Day](#)

### May

- 7-13 [International Composting Awareness Week](#)
- 11 [Hairy Nosed \(Wombat\) Day](#)
- 13 [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (and October 14)
- 15-21 [National Volunteer Week](#)
- 20 [World Bee Day](#)
- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 [World Turtle Day](#)

### June

- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 5 [International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing](#)
- 7 [World Food Safety Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

### July

- 1-31 [Plastic Free July](#)
- 26 [World Mangrove Day](#)
- 28 [Schools Tree Day](#)
- 31 [World Ranger Day](#)
- 30 [National Tree Day](#)

### August

- 1-7 [Landcare Week](#) (TBC)
- 7-13 [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#)
- 12-20 [National Science Week](#)
- 19 [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 20-24 [World Water Week](#)

### September

- 1-31 [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- 1 [National Wattle Day](#)
- 1 [National Walk to Work Day](#) (TBC)
- 7 [National Threatened Species Day](#)
- 10 [National Bilby Day](#) (Charleville Bilby Festival)
- 18-24 [National Organic Week](#)
- 16 [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)
- 22 [World Car-Free Day](#)
- 24 [World Rivers Day](#)
- 28 [World Maritime Day](#)
- 29 [International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#)

### October

- 1-7 [Australian Wildlife Week](#)
- 3 [World Habitat Day](#)
- 13 [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#)
- 14 [World Migratory Bird Day](#) (and 13 May)
- 16 [World Food Day](#)
- 17 [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- 17-23 [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#) (tbc)
- 18 [National Ride-2-Work Day](#)
- 24 [United Nations Day](#)

### November

- 5 [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#)
- 13-19 [Pollinator Week](#)
- 6-12 [National Recycling Week](#)
- 10 [World Science Day for Peace and Development](#)
- 21 [World Fisheries Day](#)

### December

- 5 [World Soil Day](#)
- 5 [International Volunteer Day](#)
- 5-10 [Coastcare Week](#) (TBC)
- 11 [International Mountain Day](#)

### Contact us

If you have an event that you would like included on this calendar, please forward details to: [media@environment.gov.au](mailto:media@environment.gov.au)

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## Feature Articles

### Urban Agriculture and the Politics of Space: An Anatomy of a Resilient Relationship

By Jelenko Dragisic and Peter Kearny, Co-Founders, Gleanr

The following essay by the co-founders is a reflection on thinking that informs Gleanr's ([gleanr.com.au](http://gleanr.com.au)) approach to urban agriculture.



#### About Gleanr

Gleanr Pty Ltd, is an urban agriculture capacity-building company. Gleanr provides a range of services to governments, private and not-for-profit sectors in developing urban agriculture policies, projects and initiatives that integrate environmental, social and economic aspects of urban agriculture.

Most recently Gleanr has launched an online platform ([Gleanr](http://Gleanr)) that allows members access to free resources and unique, first-of-their-kind tools enabling individuals and enterprises to customise their food growing ventures based on geographic location. Gleanr is also currently developing several strategic partnerships with several First Nations organisations with a view to enabling their immersion into the urban agriculture market.

The story of Gleanr evolved slowly until it found its current form - a collaborative community platform for urban food growing communities. Gleanr is passionate about developing a sense of community collaboration and learning.

As one of the oldest activities in human history, urban agriculture (UA) has experienced a renaissance in the past two decades. Predictions made only a decade ago that UA will become a global reality, as much as a global necessity, have turned out to be accurate. Those predictions are reflected in the groundswell of interest in this kind of activity that has proven to be valuable across economic, social and environmental areas of urban life.

A general overview of UA trends globally suggests a complex process where motivations, approaches, benefits, challenges, impacts, attitudes, policies and practices vary. The complex web of factors that impact on the way UA is managed in different parts of the world inevitably suggests a politics of space and confusion in respect of the way urban agriculture can be managed in a balanced way.



Perhaps nowhere has this been better demonstrated than in discussions on the benefits and challenges of urban agriculture. More specifically, it has been noted that factors that have been considered as problematic relied on inaccurate comparisons between urban agriculture and commercial agriculture practices. In some cases, concerns were raised regarding the negative impacts of urban agriculture in urban settings, mostly based on data and observations related to conventional commercial food production systems. While not an isolated case, this kind of dichotomy places renewed emphasis on the research and analysis of urban agriculture in an appropriate context as the foundation for effective policy that local authorities can use to steer this fast-evolving movement.

Secondly, but equally important, is the fact that the drivers of urban agriculture are not globally uniform. In some regions urban food growing plays a much larger role in respect to food supply and access to quality produce, as opposed to other drivers such as human health, environmental concerns and social cohesion and culture. In other words, in some parts of the world (such as the Global South) urban agriculture forms part of a 'livelihood activity' (e.g., the City of Johannesburg identifies UA as its main intervention to address food security within the city), while in other parts of the world (e.g. the Global North) urban agriculture is more strongly linked with socio-environmental sustainability. A combination of these two factors (although not exclusive) has been taken into consideration in researching this essay.

It is necessary and strategically critical to acknowledge that UA development has been occurring ahead of policy development. This means that, given growing evidence of urban agriculture interest and a near certainty about its presence in urban life, now is the time for elevation of focus based on smart strategy, supportive and balanced policy and forward-looking community engagement. These elements can, in the first instance, mitigate risks that could emerge from ad hoc urban farming projects in cities, with inadequate regard for a balanced approach that large-scale UA needs in order to be sustainable. Policy and strategy-driven growth of UA is also a matter of prudent risk mitigation.

Urban food production methods are diversifying and have increasingly been viewed through an enhanced prism of the economy of modern cities, together with long touted benefits to the social wellbeing of communities. This explains some trends in recent years that have attracted technology-supported companies to create scalable urban farming enterprises capable of competing with large scale conventional farming conglomerates. Here it is worth noting that urban farming is more associated with purely commercial enterprises whose business model is built on using vacant spaces in urban environments, such as abandoned factories or even underground air raid shelters, for highly intensive production of specific produce which can be delivered to the market instantly and with next-to-no need for storage and transport.



Urban farming at scale then differs critically from other forms of urban agriculture, whereby food production may not be conducted with a single purpose in mind but rather acts as a catalyst for improvement of quality of life in neighbourhoods, reduced land degradation, creating communities, education, improving resilience to natural disasters, improving biodiversity and so on.

However, one should not be fooled by the apparent simplicity by which urban agriculture is growing. The idea that people want food produced locally and, in many cases differently, is only a part of the story.

Urban agriculture is proving to be one of the most impactful social capital creators. Social capital is what every urban community needs in order to thrive and respond when things are challenging or during periods of change and disruption.

As an urban agriculture capacity building company that talks to many people across broad section of disciplines that feed into urban agriculture space, Gleanr Pty Ltd has noticed that conversations about urban agriculture tend to be rushed into discussion about profitability. While that is understandable given that fact that there is not much point in developing a food production enterprise unless it can be financially independent.

However, what is often left out of these discussions, or at the very best only touched upon slightly, is that UA is more often falsely compared to conventional agriculture. While food production connects the two industries, it does not make them the part of the same ecosystem. The key is to understand that UA is enabled by a different set of experiential drivers. Community participation is one. As a unique and collaborative approach to building of a new vision of our urban landscape, community participation is a powerhouse motive that deserves much larger recognition in the overall story of urban agriculture.



Why is this important? For a start, UA would not be possible if the only thing people were concerned about was the price of carrots. The food we eat every day is also a language by which we communicate. There is way too much meaning packed in food to discuss it in this essay, however it should come as no surprise that food helps us not just maintain our life in a most literal sense, but also in a profound, symbolic way. As they say, humans are meaning-makers and that is where things come together: by growing food together in small urban farming lots we create meaning for ourselves. And this meaning defines each local community in slightly different way. A special way.

Take a moment to listen to people that proudly identify themselves as urban food growers and you will notice that conversations about the quality of soil, or a particular technique used to get a better yield, often evolve into discussions on values, community and vision of local life. Inevitably this 'community connection' element of UA is what creates social capital; the bedrock of a healthy society.

The value of social connectedness generated through urban agriculture should be taken very seriously. A thriving field of social capital research identifies many and multifaceted benefits. For instance, studies have shown that, as a rule of thumb, when a person joins a group (in this case, say, a local urban farming collective), they halve their risk of dying during the next year. The economic benefit of social capital is where urban agriculture distinguishes itself markedly from conventional farming.



This is not to say that social capital does not exist in conventional food farming; rather its business model is not necessarily driven by it as much as it is in urban agriculture. This fact is one of the factors that guided Gleanr co-founders in developing the [Gleanr online platform](#) with functions that allow people to create different groups and form collaborative space supported by free resources and tools.



With the risk of overreaching, it still warrants directing the conversation of UA towards policy settings that are distinctly different from conventional farming or traditional urban planning. Links to both are obvious. Nonetheless, while there are links which must be integrated into UA strategy in the future, it would be a major mistake to confuse these links with exact measures by which UA should be guided. Accounting for how the immense role of human connectedness in the process of food production in dense living spaces releases a new approach to sustainability, this certainly must be exciting for all.

This aspect of building UA policy on the basis of human connectedness capacity rather than replicating policy thinking designed in conventional agriculture is partially what inspired recently launched initiative Urban Agriculture Dialogues held in Parliament House, Brisbane in September 2022. Gleanr's aim was to bring professionals across fields into a collaborative space that can unlock urban agriculture capacity in Australia as a major food resilience and food security building block. An aspect of food and agribusiness future that was recently acknowledged by an industry report published by Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL).

The above discussed complexities are part of the motivation behind Gleanr's drive to transform urban agriculture into a shared space for environmental practitioners, urbanist, technology developers, social planners, policy makers, investors, as well as many others who recognise the full scope of urban agriculture and the Australian community in general.

## Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 - Inclusiveness and Equality for Women

By Shivang Ambasht, Masters in Sustainable Development Goals - specializing in Environmental sustainability (student). Massey University (NZ)



Gender equality revolves around making sure that the girl child and women all over the world are treated fairly which occurs in the absence of discrimination and any form of violence. (Esquivel, 2016). SDG 5 has the ability to balance power relations between men and women to the point that empowerment can actually encompass power for all women in the world. It is very crucial that equal opportunity goes hand in hand with equal outcomes i.e., women should experience equal satisfaction and self-empowerment to push on with their lives. In the 21st century, the development of technology has led to women all over the world becoming more independent and taking a stand for themselves against decades of wrongful representation that women belong in the kitchen. Such a bold stance has bruised the egos of those in power who continue to look down on their female counterparts and have instead engaged in violence against women. In the current pandemic, violence against women and children is at an all-time high in developing nations and in countries like Afghanistan, it is expected that women's rights such as the right to education and freedom of expression have already been violated.

In order to achieve justice and equality for all, the main actors such as the national government and the global community will need to collaborate to the extent that a political economy analysis is required to better understand what is going on within the country and its sectors. (Whaites, 2016). Developed countries all over the world should cooperate and further assist developing nations in making SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) a reality and it is even more crucial that contingency plans are made for situations that arise due to the volatile nature of the external environment. Targets 16.7 and 16.8 require strengthening the participation levels of developing nations which lead to informed decision making toward global governance. (Whaites, 2016).

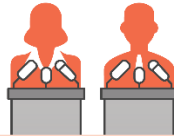
It is common knowledge that indigenous people view the world very differently compared to those from the global north and such points of view are important to consider within international organizations as they are usually not recognised and are discriminated against to the point that only 280 million remain all over the world. History has shown the global north becoming engaged in merciless politics in capturing indigenous land. (Kumar et al, 2021) Indigenous people such as Maori tend to relate very closely to the natural environment, such that there is a moral responsibility to take care of the environment hence, the generational knowledge that indigenous people all over the world possess, can be deemed useful in resolving domains of global governance. (Whaites, 2016)

According to (Smith et al, 2017) globalisation has led to countries becoming more interconnected and has led to millions engaging in culture sharing hence it can be said that the new era of global governance relies more upon the values of trust and partnership. SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) highlights the importance of developing an integrated innovative system that can be accessed globally, therefore, providing developing nations with sustainable friendly technologies to further contribute to their response strategy. Such a partnership between high income and low-income countries will lead to knowledge sharing and better relationship marketing for future collaboration. (Smith et al, 2017).

According to (Keesstra et al, 2016) the soil science community has the potential to make a large contribution toward SDGs as soil contributes to the general ecosystem that serves as the building block to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) which is related to food security and producing nutritious food to all people in the world. This has a direct relation with soil health and in the 21st-century is seen as one of the main drivers of good spiritual/mental health well-being and famous public figures like Sadhguru have made a pledge to raise awareness about soil degradation by journeying through 26 countries on a motorcycle. Essentially, the SDG studies relating to food security do not show enough value towards soil science but millions worldwide are slowly becoming more educated on the importance of soil health. (Keesstra et al, 2016). According to (cuervo-cazuraa et al, 2021) the SDGs although meant for a good purpose are used by many multinationals to brand their sustainability efforts which are at the bare minimum, therefore, leading to another form of rainbow-washing. The most common criticism of the SDGs revolves around the goals being over-complex and that firms are unable to integrate tougher goals into their action plan instead choose goals that have already made significant progress. (Leal Filho, 2020).

## ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

IT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER  
**40 YEARS**



FOR WOMEN AND MEN TO BE REPRESENTED EQUALLY IN NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AT THE CURRENT PACE

WOMEN'S SHARE IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

22.4%

2015



26.2%

2022



GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED

PROPORTION OF COUNTRIES WITH SYSTEMS TO TRACK GENDER-BUDGET ALLOCATIONS (2018-2021)



26% | COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMS  
59% | SOME FEATURES OF A SYSTEM  
15% | LACKING MINIMUM ELEMENTS OF SUCH A SYSTEM



WOMEN ACCOUNTED FOR **39%** OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN 2019, BUT **45%** OF GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT LOSSES IN 2020

MORE THAN 1 IN 4 WOMEN (15+ YEARS)



HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (641 MILLION) AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFETIME

ONLY **57%** OF WOMEN (15-49 YEARS)

ARE MAKING THEIR OWN INFORMED DECISIONS ON SEX AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

(64 COUNTRIES, 2007-2021)

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## General Articles



By Olivia Ustariz, HOPE researcher Qld

### David Holmgren



David Holmgren is the co-originator of permaculture, a term he and Bill Morrison first coined in the mid-1970s.

Permaculture refers to a design system wherein landscapes are consciously designed to mimic pre-industrial sustainable societies and thereby provide for our needs while simultaneously increasing the natural capital of future generations.

In more specific terms, David describes permaculture as the ideal framework for designing, establishing, managing, and improving the diverse efforts people pursue to foster a sustainable future, such as organic gardening.

David is renowned for 'leading by example' and living a sustainable lifestyle bound by the ideals of permaculture. For instance, David's home at Melliodara, Central Victoria, is regarded as one of the best documented and well known permaculture sites in the world. Comprising a passive solar house, mixed food gardens, dams, and livestock, Melliodara showcases the relative ease with which people can supplant their dependence on consumerism with dependence on the self.

Most recently, David has been advocating for the application of permaculture as a response to future scenarios wherein energy becomes progressively less available. David's advocacy efforts are predominantly run through his consultancy business, Holmgren Design, which similarly comprises education and publishing initiatives.

Please head to the Holmgren Design [website](#) for more information on David and his work in permaculture, as well as free resources to kickstart your involvement in the permaculture movement. David's fascinating views on energy descent scenarios, meanwhile, can be found on the Future Scenarios [website](#).

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### **Integrated pest management and why it is so useful**

By Stephanie Jessiman, HOPE researcher Qld

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a method in which pest management is handled in a much safer way. It is much more environmentally friendly and can be used for both agricultural and non-agricultural needs (EPA, 2022). This method utilizes more natural means of removing pests, such as natural predators and/or parasites (farm-biosecurity, 2022). For example, in Europe, farmers can utilize ladybugs as a natural pest control method to get rid of invasive and damaging bugs. In Australia, homeowners can plant different plants such as lavender or eucalyptus to ward off damaging bug species from small vegetable farms. While this method does not call for absolute discouragement of chemical pesticides, it actively tries to reduce the use of the more harmful methods of reducing pests (farm-biosecurity, 2022). The more harmful chemical pesticides are used, the more people and animals it will affect.



*Figure 1: Utilizing another species to reduce the population of a smaller pest species within crops*

One common herbicide that has been found to be extremely harmful is Roundup. Roundup is one of the most popular herbicides used in the US and Australia. Simply coming into contact or inhaling fumes produced by the product can inflict immediate damage (Top Class Actions, 2022), meanwhile this product is being sprayed onto plants and other weeds before sowing crops (ABC News, 2021).

Chemical pesticides and similar pest management solutions are harmful to the surrounding environment, not only for humans and many animals but bodies of both fresh and salt water too. After storms, these chemicals are collected by rainwater and filtered into the natural bodies of water surrounding, further harming freshwater and ocean water which then can further affect marine food supply and drinking water.

As harmful pesticides enter the water supply, they find their ways into the ocean through water connectivity. Once in the oceans, begins to affect all sorts of marine flora and fauna, but especially coral reefs. Any concentration of pesticides is dangerous to corals (Marine Species, 2022). These chemicals limit fertilization and metamorphosis and decrease their ability to do photosynthesis, thus disallowing them to reproduce and feed, key factors to their survival. While coral sensitive to most climate changing results, chemicals through run-off is one of the many that is slowly bleaching all coral reefs, a vital ecosystem of our oceans.

IPM calls for a reduction of use of these much more harmful pesticide methods, only using them when natural methods have all been exhausted. As consumers, we want to know that our food whether meat, vegetables, or seafood is safe for consumption, and the reduction of these more harmful pesticide methods can naturally solve an issue that has arisen in the last few decades.

*References:*

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<https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/what-is-integrated-pest-management/>

<https://topclassactions.com/canada/roundup/is-roundup-harmful-to-humans/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2021-07-20/glyphosate-ban-could-cost-farmers-hundreds-of-thousands-/100307322>

[https://marinespecies.org/introduced/wiki/Threats\\_to\\_Coral\\_Reefs:\\_the\\_Effects\\_of\\_Chemical\\_Pollution](https://marinespecies.org/introduced/wiki/Threats_to_Coral_Reefs:_the_Effects_of_Chemical_Pollution)

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## Queensland News

### A brief overview of Allora Landcare Group (ALG) Inc.



Allora Landcare Group (ALG) Inc is a community volunteer group that has been in existence for about 30 years. Following a period of decline in the 1990s, it later gained new membership and significance in the landcare community.

Current membership is about 46 but of these, about 20 are active. There are no joining fees.

Our main activity for the past 10 years has been the restoration and preservation of the Allora Mountain Fauna and Flora Reserve. To that end, we have engaged in, among other things, weed eradication programmes, protection of struggling flora (at risk from the drought and grazing animals), identification of rare and endangered flora, erosion control, establishment of walking tracks, and identification of indigenous artefacts.

Last year, we published and sold a book on the birds found on the Mountain and are preparing a second edition for sale in 2022.

We established a picnic area at the Allora reservoir level on the mountain which we hold under lease from the Southern Downs Regional Council; and also built an information shed there for visitors to peruse.

Access is via Burge Road off the New England Highway in Allora, (which we share with the Refuse station). The entrance is clearly signposted. Take the graded road up the slope to the reservoir. Entry to the mountain top is from there.

We have regular working mornings on the mountain, which are not onerous, and we always follow with a *smoko* in Allora. We are a social group at heart. We have excursions to local places in the district of landcare interest, which are surprisingly plentiful.

We communicate regularly and meet with adjacent Landcare and Bushcare groups such as Condamine Headwaters, Killarney, Millmerran, Clifton and others. We liaise with groups such as the Stanthorpe Wildflower Consortium and Toowoomba Field Naturalists. We are closely linked with Allora Show Society and Allora Historical Society. We are covered for insurance purposes by Queensland Water and Landcarers (QWaLC).



There is a lot more going on but the above is the outline of where we are.

The Group meet every second month for a business meeting.

This is held at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the even months. Business is usually concluded by 9.30pm.

All meetings are preceded by an optional group dinner starting at 6.00pm, held in the Railway Hotel in Allora, then we move to the meeting venue in the Commercial Hotel.

The year ends with the December meeting and Christmas Party.

If you are interested in joining, the next meeting would be a good opportunity. We would be delighted to welcome you then and introduce you to the good folk who make up ALG.

I look forward to welcoming you to the next meeting.

Kind regards,

Pete Thomas - Secretary - Allora Landcare Group Inc. | mob: 0419 724 025

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## National News

### Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) – [www.earthlaws.org.au](http://www.earthlaws.org.au)

Brisbane based not-for-profit Australian Earth Laws Alliance is a collective of researchers working to create systemic change towards Earth Jurisprudence; a philosophy and associated principles for earth-centred governance.

AELA states that its vision is to 'create human societies that are connected deeply to, and love, the living world, live within their ecological limits and enjoy productive, sustainable economies that nurture the health of the wider Earth community.' AELA focusses on research, education, publishing, community capacity building and modelling new ways forward for Earth-centred governance. Its teams comprise of First Nations community leaders, economists, lawyers, scientists, ethicists and everything in-between.

To achieve Earth-centred governance, AELA's work follows five key themes; changing culture; reconnecting with what matters; building community; creating alternatives, and transforming law and structure.

The organisation's work spans a wide range of programs, including the Australian Centre for the Rights of Nature, Future Dreaming, the Anthropocene Judgements Project, Earth Ethics, and many more. All are produced by multidisciplinary teams and combine academic research, advocacy and community-based projects.

AELA's Australian Centre for the Rights of Nature provides information about the global Rights of Nature movement and works with Australian communities to explore changing the legal status of nature and its role in protecting their local ecosystems.

The Centre's work includes assisting in the drafting of a Bill to recognise the Rights of Nature and Future Generations to Western Australia's Parliament, working for the recognition of the legal rights of the Great Barrier Reef, and community capacity building for Rights of Nature.

The Blue Mountains City Council is now the first government entity in Australia to embed Rights of Nature into its organisational, operational, planning and advocacy processes and programs after consulting with AELA.

The Anthropocene Judgments Project is a visionary initiative working to produce modelling for future legal judgements on environmental challenges such as climate change, artificial intelligence, border control for climate refugees and resulting statelessness.

The aim of the project is to create new legal pathways that may become the bedrock of reform to existing legal systems to allow them to cope with these challenges. It engages multidisciplinary participants such as lawyers, speculative fiction writers, and scientists.

AELA has a wide range of free resources available on its website, including reading lists, PowerPoint presentations, podcasts and materials for children. There is also a newsletter subscription available from <https://earthlaws.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=b5d06d46235932bfb4a96c966&id=4f67ef4374>



Image sourced: [earthlaws.org.au/2021/04/bmcc-rights-of-nature](http://earthlaws.org.au/2021/04/bmcc-rights-of-nature)

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## International News

### Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) – [ciel.org](http://ciel.org)



Established in 1989, The CIEL is an international law firm based in Washington DC and Geneva that uses the law to safeguard the environment, human rights and create a just and sustainable society. The Center provides legal counsel, advocacy, policy research and capacity building across its three project areas of Climate & Energy, Environmental Health, and People, Land & Resources.

CIEL states that it seeks “a world where the law reflects the interconnection between humans and the environment, respects the limits of the planet, protects the dignity and equality of each person, and encourages all of earth’s inhabitants to live in balance with each other.” It has five focus areas in which it is working to achieve these goals. It seeks to reduce the toxic risks of chemical exposure and hazardous substances, accelerating the transition from fossil fuels, safeguarding intact ecosystems, making trade safer for people and environment, and ensuring that human rights drive development.

In the past year, CIEL has made some important achievements in its work. In Guyana, CIEL worked with local partners to win a major lawsuit settlement against ExxonMobil in the face of rapid expansion of oil and gas frontiers in South America. The win forced Guyana’s government to cut environmental permit terms for the first offshore oil wells from twenty years to five, which must now be reauthorised and opened to public scrutiny in 2022. Another case was filed by Guyanese citizens contending that the approval of offshore oil production violates the right to a health environment, the first case of its kind in the Caribbean and bringing important international attention to the issue. CIEL has also been instrumental in facilitating a network of international partners working on similar issues through which information, ideas, tools and strategies are being shared.

CIEL has also been working with international partners since 2017 to advocate for a legally binding international treaty to govern plastic. Over 140 countries have expressed interest in the treaty and 40 countries supported the treaty at the United Nations Environment Assembly. CIEL has worked with Indigenous partners and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples to urge the UNEA to include Indigenous Peoples meaningfully in future plastics negotiations. It is now working to secure an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to make its treaty a reality in 2022.

There are a multitude of projects and expertise areas in which CIEL are not only active but making significant environmental and human rights law progress. Regular updates, briefings, reviews and reports can be found on the CIEL’s ‘Publications’ page and on its blog, accessed through its homepage.



## Resources



### Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) - [new.gbca.org.au](http://new.gbca.org.au)

The GBCA, established in 2002, is an independent authority on sustainable building. The purpose of the GBCA is to transform Australia's built environment and building industry into one that promotes sustainability, health, and resilience. Built environment refers to existing buildings and homes, interiors, design and construction for new and proposed buildings, and community development.



To drive this change, the GBCA focus on four pillars: rate; educate; advocate; collaborate.

- **Rate:** In 2003, the GBCA developed the Green Star Rating system. This is a voluntary rating system that provides a standard for sustainable buildings. To achieve the Green Star Certification, a submission can be made to the GBCA. The GBCA will assess the sustainability of a building, interior, community, or proposed project before it is assessed by a third-party. Third-party assessors consist of independent experts in sustainable development. Once approved, a building is able to display the Green Star Certification trademark. The rating system is on a scale from 1 to 6 stars. A rating of 1 star represents minimum practice, 2 is average practice, 3 is good practice, 4 is best practice, 5 is Australian excellence and 6 is world leadership. In Australia, there is currently over 55 million m<sup>2</sup> of building space that is Green Star Certified. The Certification scheme is constantly updating to reflect best practice. Currently, the GBCA is working to digitise the Green Star Certification and provide a tool for Green Star homes. More information can be found at <https://new.gbca.org.au/green-star/exploring-green-star/>.
- **Educate:** As an expert body in sustainable building, GBCA provide many opportunities for industry, government, and homeowners to upskill. This includes a variety of courses on becoming a Green Star Associate or Accredited Professional, in-house training workshops that personalise the Green Star rating tool to each organisation's needs, and a Continuing Professional Development Program. More information can be found at <https://new.gbca.org.au/courses-events/green-star-courses-accreditation/>.
- **Advocate:** The GBCA work with government, industry partners, investors, and universities to influence decision-making processes. In particular, their advocacy work includes providing advice to the Australian Building Codes Board, and the Australian Building and Construction Commission on building regulation and codes. The policies and programs advocated for by the GBCA can be found at <https://new.gbca.org.au/policy/policy-priorities/>.

- **Collaborate:** Alongside working with government and industry leaders, the GBCA's strategy is founded in its member base. The GBCA currently represent over 600 members, including building owners, occupants, operators, and decision-makers. The GBCA undertake consultations and collaboration with its members to maximise their benefits and shape their strategic direction. Currently, members get access to information and resources on best practice sustainable building including Green Star Reports, advocacy papers and business papers. Members also receive networking opportunities, and discounts on training courses such as the Continued Professional Development Programs. Membership information can be found at <https://new.gbca.org.au/membership/become-member/>.



### CSIRO Publishing promotion

Looking for your next enviro-read? You'll find a range of media tackling environment education, information and resources produced by CSIRO Publishing, Australia's leading science publisher. A not-for-profit, independent unit housed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Committed to best practice ethical standards for publishing, including scholarly peer-review, you can be sure that CSIRO Publishing delivers quality and excellence in material.

You can access books, eBooks, journals, a blog, and even workshops designed to develop your science writing and grant application skills. For younger learners, CSIRO Publishing also runs Double Helix magazine, science for kids aged 8-14, with free additional fortnightly emails with science stories and activities under the Double Helix Extra subscription.

Whatever your scientific interests, from built environment to physics or agriculture, you are sure to find a credible, quality read from CSIRO Publishing. Browse their catalogue here - <https://www.publish.csiro.au/>.

## Green Agenda - - [greenagenda.org.au](https://greenagenda.org.au)

By Tiffany Leigh-Logan, MPH. HOPE researcher (QLD)



### About

The Green Agenda is a publishing project created under the Green Institute. The Green Institute is the official Australian Greens think tank (The Green Institute, 2022). It was founded in 2008 with a Commonwealth government grant-in-aid with the goal of cultivating ecological democracy through action, ideas, and conversation.

The institute has a reputation for conducting influential, high-quality, exciting research which is recognized both nationally and internationally. The institute has focused its work on participatory democracy, rights of nature, universal basic income, earth-centered governance, and conversations around ecological practices and theories (The Green Institute, 2022).

The Green Institutes Green Agenda publishing project was created to encourage laypersons to engage, interact, and be inspired by the green movement. This is done by publishing content in online forum threads where people actively participate in discussions about various concepts and ideas at their leisure (Green Agenda, 2022, a). The Green Agenda specializes in publishing long essays (Green Agenda, 2022, e), as well as publishing some graphics, interviews, cartoons, photos, and multi-media content (Green Agenda, 2022, f).



Photo 1 is sourced from [greenagenda.org](https://greenagenda.org)

### Main Aims

The main aim of the Green Agenda is to publish contributions from scholar-activists, academics, organizers, writers, and citizens who are interested in exploring progressive and green thinking ideas and their present-day relevance. To encourage space for public dialogue, debates, and discussions; and to assist lay persons in developing a deeper understanding of critical present-day green philosophies and politics (Green Agenda, 2022, e).

### Major achievements to date

The Green Agenda publishing platform has drawn in and amassed contributions from 57 independent writers (Green Agenda, 2022, d). These contributions have successfully been published in quarterly journal editions since 2020 (Green Agenda, 2022, b).



Photo 2 is sourced from [greenagenda.org](https://greenagenda.org)

### Current Projects/campaigns

The Green Agenda's Publishing campaign is to spread awareness about the 4 pillars of the green movement which are nonviolence and peace, social and economic justice, ecological sustainability, and participatory democracy (Green Agenda, 2022, e). The Green Agendas' perpetual project is to publish essays and other content on the Green Agenda website in quarterly journal editions which best explore the challenges we face today and bring forth progressive creative ideas (Green Agenda, 2022, e).

### Resources

You can subscribe to Green Agenda email updates at <https://greenagenda.org.au/subscribe/> (Green Agenda, 2022, c), and you can access the Green Agenda Quarterly Journal editions on the Green Agenda website under the header Quarterly Editions (Green Agenda, 2022, b).

(Information for this article sourced from Green Agenda's website)

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