

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Minutes – Ordinary Meeting, Saturday, 13 June 2015

Venue: HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

Meeting start at 10.05am

1. Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea
 - a. Attendees: Shannon Michael, Frank Ondrus and Kerry Kruger
 - b. Apologies: David Shipp, Charmaine Atkinson, Barry Miller, Dorothy Keane, Joy van der Wyk, Lisa Wriley (TEC), Jerry Colby-Williams, Paola Cassoni TBA)
 - c. Proxy votes: for David Shipp and Charmaine Atkinson held by Frank Ondrus
2. Declaration(s) of Conflict: Nil
- 3a. Confirmation of minutes from Executive Meeting of 11 April 2015 → Moved Frank Ondrus, accepted by all
- 3b. Business arising:
 - 2 copies of Decongestion bought – one for our library; and the other one purchased by Terry Ryan
 - Funding for Energy Efficient Roadshow proposal was not forthcoming → *project shelved for time being*
4. Correspondence (Lots of email activity in/out):
 - Information received on:
 - University of Western Sydney hosting “HOPE: Students for Sustainability” Conference (15-16 Sept 2015)
 - US Solar Decathlon Challenge and opportunities to do something locally, state-wide & nationally
 - Solar Citizens – *Stand Up For Solar* campaign
 - The Victorian Women’s Trust - *Monster Climate Petition* → *collect signatures at upcoming July & Aug events*
 - E: letters sent to Qld State Govt members of parliament re Abandoned Mines (& Quarries) remediation; and implementation of Labor Party’s election policies
 - Energy Solar Decathlon (idea born in USA) - Phil Little/Greg Lukes wants to adopt the competition here in Australia – a competition among university students to design solar energy houses and build a village of these solar homes.
5. Reports
 - President’s Report – as per weekly Office Updates
 - Succession Planning – urgent need to recruit more people to management committee and admin support (see Positions Vacant notes below) so that someone can be groomed to take over from Frank when he retires. Frank has been continuously led HOPE as the convener of HOPE Toowoomba, the coordinator of HOPE Queensland and now the president of HOPE Australia
 - HOPE joined QCC (Queensland Conservation Council) in the mid-to late 1990’s and QWaLC (Qld Water and Land Carers group in 2007. HOPE’s membership to QWaLC gave us access to insurance and enabled us to become an incorporated association
 - HOPE Inc. operates at national, state and local level (i.e. Toowoomba & region)
 - David Graham has written a media release on *Volunteering for the Environment*
 - Shannon Michael will develop a poster on *Volunteering for the Environment* for display at USQ (University of Southern Queensland)
 - Youth Leading the World (YLtW) Congress - Shannon has volunteered to do the facilitator training for this event
 - **Treasurer’s report**
 - 1st lot of petty cash expended
 - \$75 site payment required for TLCF

- Account balance as at 13 June 2015 = \$2,489.10

6. Motion:

To adopt Business Plan as drafted by Joseph Mula → Moved by Kerry Kruger; seconded Shannon Michael

7. General business

- Charmaine Atkinson's recent marriage to Pete Turnbull
- Membership Fee Options proposal → Based on feedback received and current discussion of pros and cons it was decided reject the introduction of membership fees and focus on attracting corporate sponsorship. Moved Frank, seconded by Kerry Kruger.
- Need to recruit more active members & volunteers – especially to fill vacancies on Management Committee and in Admin Support → *promote voluntary opportunities at USQ – seek support for graphic design work for t-shirt logo*
- Succession Planning → *submit article to June e:newsletter*
- Reports on HOPE's information display & demonstration activities at Gardenfest
- Report on June community forum – Back to Basics
- Accept early bird fee of \$75 for site at this year's Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
- Report on May & June community forums: Julia Gallea – Building biology – outlined 25 design principles. There will be an article in the newsletter. The June forum was presentations by various members: Terry Ryan on organic gardening; Mark Tranter on electricity pricing and networks; Friends of Escarpment on parks; LETS on their bartering/swap group; The July community forum will be about volunteering for junior Landcare and will target schools. The August forum will be by NPAQ.
- Report on Gardenfest – very successful; made approximately \$90 on sales of plants and raffle. Past editions of Gardening Australia will be used for future events as giveaways.

- **Positions Vacant**

Due to the recent departures of key committee and admin support staff, we are in urgent need of extra personnel to fill the following vacancies:

- Vice President - duties include chairing meetings; and provide media comment projects, campaigns and general activities
 - Website Manager - maintain 'freshness' of website by doing regular maintenance; and sourcing new material
 - Admin support – various tasks from helping with internet research, article writing, media support and staffing of information displays, etc. at community events
 - State Liaison Officers to be responsible for promoting HOPE in their jurisdictions
 - Newsletter Team to solicit and/or write articles – with the editor compiling the newsletter
 - Media Team to prepare media releases, community service announcements, date claimers, etc.; and to assist with research and writing (feature) articles
 - Website Manager to keep information up-to-date
 - Librarian – to complete the cataloguing of our resources; and to undertake weekly maintenance updates
- So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

We need to share the ever-increasing workload by recruiting more active members and volunteers.

The management committee deals with policy and direction matters; and the admin support staff deal with the day to day operations. And, as we have no paid staff, management committee and volunteers are responsible for carrying out the operational tasks.

8. Next meeting – Ordinary Meeting, 12 September 2015

9. Close: Meeting closed at 11.20am