

President's Report for 2014-2015

(Last updated – 14 November 2015)

As I sat pouring through my work diary, the calendar, the weekly e: office updates, and the monthly Office Reports for the e: newsletter, I was surprised to see how much we had undertaken for the year.

Obviously, a lot of behind-the-scenes hard work by HOPE members, volunteers and supporters was necessary to enable us to continue to maintain our public profile locally, state-wide (Queensland) and nationally ... and I thank them all for their contributions.

Sincere thanks must go to those members and volunteers who have undertaken management committee and admin support roles throughout the year. Shawn Dang our website manager stepped down in March. Thanks to Kerry for adding website maintenance to her list of jobs. Joseph Mula left Australia in February to take up a voluntary teaching position in China. Joseph has been able to provide advice and assistance via email.

The production of the monthly e: newsletter; maintenance of Facebook and Twitter accounts; maintenance of the website; overhaul and update of the Membership database (June 2015); planning and preparation of 8 community forums, 4 major information displays and 5 committee meetings have been achieved with the minimum of fuss and mostly, good cheer.

On the administrative side, our first priority was to support and promote the work of our many partnerships / alliances <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances/> . These associations have provided us with access to expertise and resources which have been helpful with our catalogue of campaigns, events and activities. *Suggestions for future partnerships are always welcome.*

I also wish to acknowledge the in-kind support received throughout the year – especially with free photocopying at the offices of our local and federal parliamentarians; and the Toowoomba Regional Council for access to the Dr Price Room, Toowoomba, for our monthly community forum program.

Summary of activities

Administration tasks

- 21 Feb – Frank Ondrus and Andrew Nicholson attended Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC) *Strategic Café* meeting
- 28 Feb – attended “anti-CSG mining” Unity Action Symposium in Chinchilla
- Sponsorship material endorsed in February
- Logo for front of T-shirt exercise initiated – no final decision reached as yet
- Business Plan redeveloped by Joseph Mula (Feb 2015) → ratified in June 2015
- Membership fee discussion and options paper → decided to focus on attracting corporate sponsorship (June 2015)
- June – Started issuing requests for Corporate Sponsorship (on-going)
- Support & promote key observances from Environmental Events Calendar (<http://www.environment.gov.au/about-us/media-centre/events>)
- Regularly issued HOPE and alliance/partner media releases and promotional articles. Thanks to Shannon Michael, David Graham, Max Logan, Marie-Jo Brion, John Hunt and Stewart Mulligan for assistance with media activities. (NB: An article written by Shannon Michael was published in the Wanderer magazine, July 2015 (Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia))
- Collected signatures for the Victorian Women's Trust which calls on the federal government to reduce carbon emissions; and for Lock the Gate Alliance (LtGA) which called on COAG (Council of Australian Governments) to protect our water and agricultural food production areas from coal & gas mining companies. (June 2015)
- Issued *Annual Fund-raising Appeal* by email sent to media outlets Australia-wide and to our members & supporters.

- Discontinued insurance with Traders Voice as our stall activities are covered by QWalC public liability insurance.
- Aug 2015 Installed Windows 10. (So far, so good!)
- 21 Oct – Attended day 3 of QCC Environment Sector Roundtable meetings

Community Forums

7 Feb 2015	Organics – more than growing food, by Dave Grubb & Pam Pittaway	20 attendees
2 May 2015	Introduction to Building Biology, by Joanne Galea	9 “
6 June 2015	HOPE - Back to Basics, various speakers	24 “
4 July 2015	QWalC and Junior Landcare, by Darryl Ebenezer	10 “
1 Aug 2015	Sustainable Forest Management, by Dr Rhett Martin, USQ	7 “
5 Sept 2015	Sustainable Housing – BDAQ, Excel Solar and others	19 “
3 Oct 2015	National Parks Assn of Queensland, by Paul Donatui	16 “
7 Nov 2015	Murray-Darling Basin Authority, by Frank Walker	5 “

Information displays

9-10 May Gardenfest Toowoomba
 9 Aug Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
 19 Aug U3A Seniors Expo
 14-16 Sept Youth Leading the World Congress and community forum
 and several smaller events at USQ (University of Southern Queensland)

Submissions made:

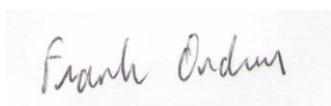
- promoting the ‘Duty of Care’ for the environment through the Places You Love Alliance – especially keeping in place red-tape and green-tape at federal and state levels
- to prevent the removal of safeguards in the EPBC Act
- in support for a national Feed-In Tariff scheme
- in support for a national Container Deposit Scheme
- to raise awareness about the 15,000+ abandoned mines (& quarries) in Queensland
- in support for retention of Renewable Energy Target (RET)
- to retain the National Water Commission
- on the “*threat of marine plastic pollution in Australia*”

Grant applications:

- Composite application for *computer and office equipment and outdoor furniture* made to GCBF
- Furniture donation request letter sent to Bunnings Warehouse
- Application to stage series of Energy Efficiency seminars made to Ergon Energy → *Unsuccessful (Oct 2015)*
 → *A review of alternate funding sources is being undertaken*
- Project “to encourage landholders to improve the native vegetation structure and habitat value of their blocks for small mammals and small birds through improved management” submitted to Condamine Alliance.

The summary report always makes the activities and tasks look simple – far from it! The time put into each task is rarely taken into account. Thank you, one and all, for the input of your time to make our year of events HAPPEN!

In closing, I wish to formally acknowledge the contributions and support of the management committee and admin support staff, and to wish the new committee all the best for the next year.



Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.