



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

## Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday, 12 September 2015

(Last updated – 29 September 2015)

Meeting was held at HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba and commenced at 10.00am

- 1a. Attendees: Stewart & Chris Mulligan, Shannon Michael, Frank Ondrus, Kerry Kruger and Guy & Oksana Muller
- 1b. Apologies: Charmaine Atkinson, John McVeigh (MP for Toowoomba South), Tony Cole, Terry & Kay Ryan, David Shipp and Steve Cupitt
- 1c. Proxy votes from David Shipp, Charmaine Atkinson and Terry Ryan assigned to Frank Ondrus
2. Declaration(s) of Conflict: Nil
- 3a. Confirmation of minutes from Executive Meeting of 13 June 2015  
→ Moved Frank Ondrus, seconded Shannon Michael and agreed by all present.
- 3b. Business arising: Nil
- 4a. Correspondence – incoming  
*Steady stream of daily e: mail correspondence – junk mail jettisoned; other correspondence vetted and on-forwarded to - specific office bearers; other key stakeholders; media; and the occasional global email to members & supporters.*
  - Received audited 2014-2015 financial accounts & submitted BAS form
  - Invitation to attend 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo → referred to General Business
  - Information from Condamine Alliance (CA) re Small Grants Program → referred to General Business
  - Received funding application form from Ergon Energy → referred to General Business
  - Places You Love (PYL) Alliance has invited member groups to respond to APEE's (Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law) first round of documents (on file) → Frank has provided initial feedback centered on national government's failure to provide duty of care for the environment. More information on APEEL may be found at <http://www.placesyoulove.org/expertpanel/>.
- 4b. Correspondence –outgoing
  - See email & hard-copy folders
  - to be tabled at meeting
    - Issued annual Fund-Raising Appeal e:letter
    - Resubmitted GCBF equipment grant application (13/8)
    - Issued several hundred e:sponsorship requests (see full details in General Business item)
    - Emails sent to QCC and Qld State Government re Abandoned mines (& quarries) → see government information at <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/abandoned-mines/>
    - Submitted survey on Climate Change Movement
- 4c. Business arising from correspondence  
→ Some minor discussion with major items dealt with in General Business

## 5. Reports

- President's Report (as per weekly Office Updates)
  - Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival (11/8) - \$75 in donations
  - University of 3<sup>rd</sup> Age (U3A) Expo (19/8) - Our information display was a resounding success – with lots of solid enquiries and 70% of the literature taken by enthusiastic event visitors \$25 in donations
- Treasurer's Report
  - Wish list item --- Request to purchase full Avast Antivirus support & protection
  - Opening balance as at 1 July 2015 was \$2,515.01  
Summary of Income & Expense Transactions attached  
Closing balance as at 31 October 2015 is \$1,615.61
- Other reports - Nil

## 6. Motions

To adopt Business Plan as drafted by Joseph Mula

➔ Moved by Frank Ondrus, seconded Shannon Michael and agreed to by all present.

## 7. General business

- Report on August community forum (1/8) – Dr Rhett Martin on Sustainable Forest Management  
➔ 7 people in attendance
- Membership Database update completed. A big thanks to Kerry Kruger. Barry Miller is looking after the maintenance of the database.
- Report on our display at Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival – good, successful event  
➔ Raised \$75 in donations
- Corporate Sponsorship exercise – requests sent to various industry associations including AWMA, AWA, engineering & construction firms, accountants & lawyers and, superannuation companies.  
➔ Many have refused. Others have given us information on their respective Community Grants programs. Frank will approach the local Chamber of Commerce for a copy of their business directory. Frank stressed the urgency to get more funding for next year and beyond.
- Report on our display at U3A Seniors Expo – very successful with lots of literature taken.  
➔ Raised \$25 in donations
- Upcoming AGM – need to recruit more committee members; and Succession Planning  
➔ Promote AGM in October newsletter
- Membership Drive – nationally ➔ *issue another e: media release; ask our members and supporters to promote HOPE on our behalf.*
- Report on September community forum – Sustainable House Day  
➔ HOPE's contribution to September's national Sustainable House Day event included inspections at 2 facilities in the morning and an afternoon community forum on Saturday 5 September. Considering the amount of effort put into organising both aspects of this event, attendance at the open facilities were low and 19 people on hand at the afternoon community forum. Many thanks to Hugh & Kay Krenske for opening up their house and gardens at 210 West St, Toowoomba; and to Excel Solar for showing visitors around their Solar Farm at 24-25 Croft Crescent, Toowoomba. Thanks also to our speakers at the community forum – Ms. Joanne Galea from the Building Designers Association of Queensland (BDAQ), Mr Terry Davis from Excel Solar and Mr Jerry Coleby-Williams from Gardening Australia.
- Progress report on Youth Leading the World (YLtW) Congress – 21 students from 4 schools attending. HOPE's role is to help with management; provide morning tea (3 days); and organise afternoon tea and information display for community forum.
- HOPE will be submitting a funding application for \$5000 to Ergon Energy to run 7 workshops on going solar. HOPE, Excel Solar and the Electrical Safety Office (Brisbane) will give presentations on energy efficiency, the benefits of renewable energy (on-grid and off) and electrical safety. The workshops will be held in regional townships – Highfields, Crows Nest, Oakey, Pittsworth, Warwick and Toowoomba(x2). Joseph Mula is helping with the application which has to be submitted by 14 September.
- Ipswich Plant Expo to be held on 12-13 March 2016. HOPE has been offered 3 free sites (3m x 3m) at the Expo; and has been granted the raffle concession. Prizes will be donated by participating exhibitors.

Raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. All proceeds to HOPE. We'll need 2 lots of tents, tables & chairs as well as lots of volunteers to staff the 2 day event. Existing GCBF grant application is for the extra tents, tables and chairs required.

- Proposal to stage a 2017 Regional Biodiversity Conference in Gatton is a potential project for HOPE. Steve Cupitt from Crossroads Consultancy may assist in drafting a project outline and budget – with support and direction from the Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC). Funding is vital to get this project off the ground.
- Funding needs for next year and beyond – as our bank balance is getting low, we'll need to attract corporate sponsorship, donations and grants from philanthropic trusts, etc. to help fund our operating expenses and proposed projects, events, campaigns and activities. Mining companies have community grants programs but HOPE is reluctant to ask them as our members and supporters may construe this course of action as against our core beliefs. With respect to what sponsors may receive for their financial support, go to <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/sponsors/>.
- HOPE logo for front of T-shirts – efforts to “design a new logographic advocating sustainable living” are progressing slowly. We have a number of suggestions with some worth pursuing. A copy of these draft logos is attached for your consideration.
- HOPE in partnership with Steve Cupitt, Crossroads Consultancy, will submit an application to CA's Small Grants program entitled “Helping our Properties Environment” – helping people on small holdings to improve their native vegetation profile. Application needs to be in by 25/9/15 and if funded has to be completed by May 2016.
- Other potential projects include cataloguing our reference library and developing a series of information sheets.
- Volunteer reports
  - Srikanth BOMMGANI may be interested in managing our website. If he says yes, then 1300WebPro will provide the training.
  - John Hunt is compiling lists of potential corporate sponsors. He has also drafted some admin policies which still need a bit of work.
  - Frank is calling for volunteers to help critique government reports and/or prepare submissions; and to write articles for our Newsletter and/or media releases on state and national issues.
- Other business
  - Guy raised the issue of what HOPE can do for people in rented housing. The projects and promotions seem to be directed at house owners but there is a niche market out there that HOPE could investigate – what can people in rented accommodation do to be sustainable. Frank suggested that we could run Excel Solar workshops for landlords of rental properties. There is also the idea of Transition Towns and how people can transition to sustainable community living. Frank also raised the issue of adopting measures for growing/trading/bartering goods and services. There were (and may still be) groups in Toowoomba such as L.E.T.S. that barter food/services or swap services. Education and information are the keys – in the past the government ran the Climate Smart Home Service for household electricity and the drive for compact florescent lights.

8. Next meeting – AGM, 14 November 2015; followed immediately by 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Meeting for 2015-2016

9. Meeting closed at 11:40am.

## **Sundry information**

### **• 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](mailto: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.**