



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

Minutes – Ordinary Meeting – Saturday, 14 November 2015

Venue: HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

Time: 11.15am

1. Introductions, attendees, apologies and morning tea
 - a. Attendees: Frank Ondrus, Kerry Kruger, Steve Cupitt, Terry Ryan, Guy & Oksana Muller, Lee Mason, Hugh Krenske, Jay van der Wyk, Barry Miller, Miriam Sharp and Wayne Ole
 - b. Apologies: David Shipp, Charmaine Turnbull, Joanne Galea, Donnell Davis, Chris & Stewart Mulligan
 - c. Proxy votes: David Shipp and Charmaine Turnbull held by Frank Ondrus
2. Declaration(s) of Conflict: Steve of Crossroads Consultancy may have a conflict if anything becomes an issue with respect to the NRM project.
- 3a. Confirmation of minutes from Ordinary Meeting of 12 September 2015. Moved Oksana Muller; seconded Kerry. Terry Ryan asked for an amendment to the minutes: Kay Ryan was not present at the meeting. So noted and minutes will be corrected.
- 3b. Business arising

Terry commented that mention was made at the AGM of ATA Toowoomba leading the 2016 Sustainable House Day activities.
- 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.

 - Invitations to attend AGMs for DDEC, FoSEQ, LtGA, FoFelton, ATA Toowoomba, QWaLC, FEP, WPS Toowoomba and QCC, not all of which we can attend
 - Frank will attend QCC AGM on Tuesday 17/11/15
 - Frank will attend the Toowoomba Cultural Development Network meeting on 20 Nov
 - Information sent to Qld State Government departments re: Duty of Care for the Environment – especially on abandoned mines and quarries
 - 2016 Volunteer Grants Program (Federal Government) – Frank will apply for the purchase of 40 monogrammed polo t-shirts
 - Toowoomba will be sending a bus to Brisbane for the world wide People's Climate March being organized locally by QCC on 28/11/15. HOPEs banner "Walk against Warming" will be carried by the DDEC at the march.
 - HOPE will take part in the Ipswich Plant Expo from 12-13 March 2016 – we have 3 free sites for information and demonstration activities; as well as a site for the raffle
- 4b. Correspondence –outgoing
 - See email & hard-copy folders
 - to be tabled at meeting

4c. Business arising from correspondence

- 1) HOPE has the raffle concession at the Ipswich Plant Expo. Frank has already collected some prizes with the bulk of the prizes coming from Expo exhibitors on the day. Raffle tickets will cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Kerry is organising the raffle tickets design and printing.
- 2) HOPE's displays: Joy will bring plants; Terry will lend worm farm; there will be a chook tractor provided by Ian Simons
- 3) Charmaine Turnbull will act as media officer and take photos and video footage.
- 4) Biggest issue is staffing for the two days: we need four people for each half day. So far Guy & Oksana, Chris & Stewart Mulligan, Mary & Frank Ondrus, Ian Simon and Terry Ryan have volunteered. Frank will be calling for more volunteers via the newsletter.
- 5) Guy suggested that we have made up and sell "No Junk Mail" stickers at the Expo – or give them away as a promotion.

5. Reports

- President's Report – as tabled at the AGM
- Treasurer's Report – as tabled at the AGM
 - Wish list -- purchase Adobe s/w (\$699), MS Office 2016 (\$248) and full Avast support & protection (\$130 for 3 years) – noted, but not really discussed
- Other reports: New logo for T-Shirt. Michael Vels and Cecile O'Mara designed two logos. Frank researched cheapest way to produce them for t-shirts and transfers are the cheapest. He had two t-shirt made up by Scottech Embroidery with the different logos. A vote was taken on which was preferred and the "Transitioning to a Sustainable Future" was chosen. Frank will now get a quote for transferring this design to 40 t-shirts and polo shirts. These will be available for volunteers to wear at all events that we participate in and/or attend – including the 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo. Frank will make application to the 2016 Volunteer Grants Program for funding for this enterprise.

6. Motions: See information about T-shirt logo above. Moved by Frank Ondrus, Seconded by Steve Cupitt

7. General business

- C/f items from 2014-2015
 - Funding applications for equipment and projects
 - to GCBF for replacement & new computer, office & display equipment (13/8)
 - plus letter sent to Bunnings Warehouse requesting donation of tables, chairs and laundry baskets (to be used for prize hampers)
 - to Ergon Energy for the staging of 7 Energy Efficiency seminars – this was refused
 - see also possible CORE (Community Owner Renewable Energy) project
 - to CA (Condamine Alliance) to undertake a landcare project – help property owners revegetate for wildlife
 - HOPE and Crossroads Consultancy have been given \$3,000 for a trial program. Steve is targeting urban blocks of 5000 square metres for the regeneration of native gardens and to get native trees growing so that Australian wildlife will be attracted back to these gardens. There will be a media release and people will volunteer their properties. Steve will do an extensive assessment and discuss with landholders what they can do with specific information on what to plant to attract native birds for example. They will get a sign to put on their gate indicating they are taking part. Comment was made that there is a similar program called Gardens for Wildlife for properties less than 5000 square metres. Also that the Crows Nest Nursery is an excellent source for native plants.
 - Other matters
 - New logo for front of polo and/or t-shirts (see above)
 - Corporate Sponsorship (on-going) – letter requests sent out asking for sponsorship
 - (development of) Admin Guide (on-going)

- Events scheduled for 2016
 - USQ Market Day (25/2)
 - 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo (12-13 Mar) – see report above
 - Youth event in partnership with QMDC, Amaroo EEC and others (tbc)
 - Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (TCLF) in August
 - U3A Seniors Expo in August

- Proposed projects, events and activities
 - Community Forums (on an ad-hoc basis)
 - *Let's Talk About Consumption* - by AELA (Australian Earth Laws Alliance) – seek assistance from Andy Le Brocque & others at USQ to host the event
 - *Effective Lobbying in the Not-for-profit Sector* – Former Parliamentary Members Association Qld and Healthy Options Australia
 - Landcare/NRM subjects such as Pest Plants & Animals; Wildlife Friendly Backyards; Responsible Pet Ownership and the problems associated with feral cats & dogs
 - AYCC one day event

- Other business
 - Lee Mason gave a brief report on the formation of the Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC). Environmental groups in Toowoomba began with TREC in 1993 but it ceased functioning effectively. With the support of QCC the DDEC was formed and it has been running for one year. QCC has guaranteed funding for three years. There are approximately 20 Darling Downs groups as members – you have to be a group to be a member. It is a group forum to discuss and act on environmental issues. DDEC is currently in court with an objection to the Acland Stage 3 coal mine.
 - So DDEC is a regional environmental council that gives member groups access to government bodies and people that they might not otherwise have, for example, DDEC meets twice a year with relevant government ministers. There is good media coverage now and access to peak bodies in the environment / government sector.
 - Hugh Krenske of Friends for Escarpment Parks spoke about the Redwood Park Open Day, which will be on 13/3/16. There will be a call to construct a trail network called the Great Escarpment Walk. There are also plans to develop an interactive environment centre at Sowden Street that will have meeting rooms. etc.
 - It was agreed that there would be a Christmas social. Frank will organise a venue that suits all tastes and that is not in a local pub → *Tue, 1 Dec, 6.30pm at City Golf Club*

8. Next ordinary meeting – 13 February 2016

9. Meeting closed at 12:05pm with lunch.