

# HOPE President's Report #1.2 for 2016-2017

(Last amended – 7 November 2017)

The 2016-2017 year was long and busy; and, on reflection, difficult for me.

Looking at the positives aspects first, we had:

- a full committee and complement of admin staff which expressed enthusiasm for the year ahead.
- supported Highfields Pioneer Village & Museum by managing an appeal for plants to landscape the area around their new mini stream railway.
- arranged a program of 5 community forums (to be held on the even months between February and October)
- suggested having 'shared lunch-time picnic' outings on the odd months of the year
- a "Talk on Native Bees" co-hosted by Southern Beekeepers Assn. (20 May) - with a full capacity of 50+ people in attendance
- committed to provide information displays for the Logan Eco Action Festival (31 May), Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (20 Aug) and U3A Toowoomba's *Seniors Expo* (23 Aug)
- received funding to hold 2 Nature Journaling workshops as our contribution to National Youth Week (Apr 2017)

We also explored funding opportunities for various undertakings including landcare projects; and a series of Information Sessions on "Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage".

A number of our volunteers also assisted by providing submissions on State and Federal Government discussion papers.

Encouragingly, we were able send delegates to a number of conferences and forums throughout the year, due to either complimentary or heavily discounted registration fees.

Disappointing aspects of the year include:

- resignation of Sue from the committee, leaving the secretary and treasurer positions vacant (Feb 2017)
- unsuccessful outcomes to grant applications for:
  - new and/or replacement computer equipment and office furniture (2 attempts)
  - training for committees
  - "Acknowledging the contribution that Darling Downs women have made to protecting our environment" (Qld Women's Week)
  - proposed information sessions on "going solar" (4 attempts)
  - Creating Wildlife Friendly Backyards workshops (2 attempts)
- interest in our community forum program fluctuated with the last 2 forums being cancelled due to low registration and unavailability of speaker respectively
- response to early social outings was negligible – so, it was decided to have the social in conjunction with our quarterly meetings.

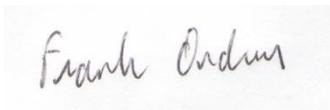
As I said, the year was busy and it provided me with some difficulties.

I'd like to thank:

- the Management Committee and Admin Support Staff for their dedicated work throughout the year;
- the many envNGOs, government agencies and businesses who shared their expertise and resources with us; and
- particular thanks to local State and Federal politicians who provided free photocopying throughout the year.

In closing, I wish to thank the out-going committee for their efforts and wish the incoming committee all the best.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

(Copies of my quarterly summary reports are enclosed for your reference.)