

2020-2021 – 5.0 – President’s Report for 13 Nov 2021

-- compilation of quarterly summaries

(Last updated – 13 November 2021)

Good morning,

A brief review of HOPE’s activities over the 2020-2021 period ... *The Good, The Bad And the Ugly!* (one of my favourite Clint Eastwood movies)

The covid-19 pandemic has certainly impacted the lives of many of our volunteers and this has flowed through their contributions to our organisation.

For instance, international students who went home at the end of the 2019 academic year were unable to return to Australia.

Other volunteers either lost employment and/or had to relocate for jobs.

Some even contracted covid-19 or had family members who had.

These and other factors contributed to a high loss of volunteers; and a stalling of many HOPE projects.

On the positive side, we have recruited some excellent volunteers to assist the Admin Support Team – and their efforts have enabled us to maintain a good standard of delivery with our monthly newsletters, social media postings, media releases and feature articles. Also, maintenance of information on our website has been promptly and professionally handled.

A huge thanks to all volunteers for their ongoing commitment and efforts in helping us promote ‘responsible and sustainable stewardship of the environment.

I wish the incoming Management Committee and Admin Support Team all the best for 2021-2022.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

Summary figures:

- Projects – 1
 - virtual 2021 Youth Summit (19-22 Apr)
- Ordinary Meetings through to AGM - 5
- Newsletters issued – 12 editions
- Media releases issued – 15
- Feature articles issued - 14
- Social media followers
 - Facebook – 875
 - Twitter - 1994
 - Instagram - 109
 - LinkedIn - 158
- Grant applications
 - Successful – 3
 - Funding from Arrow Energy to produce a “Directory of Heritage Facilities” brochure
 - Funding from Toowoomba Regional Council’s (TRC) *Micro Grants* program to purchase office consumables
 - Funding from Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) to purchase a drone
 - Pending – 1
 - Application to Federal Government for grant to cover fuel costs
 - Unsuccessful – 1
 - Development of Waste Minimisation brochure – submitted to various funding bodies

Summary of Quarterly Reports for 2020-2021

(Last updated – 11 November 2021)

Significant office highlights:

- 12/09 Ordinary Meeting
- 21/09 Australian Earth Laws Alliance (ALEA) has accepted our invitation to become an Alliance/Partner
- 22/09 Postal mailout to secondary schools re Updated letter on 2021 Youth Summit
- 26/09 Submitted online Register of Environmental Organisations (REO) return for 2019-2020 (Miriam Sharp, 26 Sept 2020)
- 30/09 Issued HOPE Enews Bulletin for October 2020
- 01/10 Issued feature article re A call for a New Generation of Australian Environmental Laws
- 05/10 Several in-house produced Podcasts are now available online. Thanks, Andrew, for the considerable time and effort you have put into this project. Much appreciated.
- 26/10 Issued 'Special Qld Edition of Newsletter' on National Parks
- 27/10 Issued meeting notices for AGM and 1st Ordinary Meeting of 2020-2021 HOPE Management Team
- 30/10 Co-signed ACF's "Open Letter to Prime Minister Morrison re Angus Taylor's poor handling of his portfolio"
- 04/11 Attended CCMA (Condamine Catchment Management Association) meeting
- 05/11 Issued Enews Bulletin for November 2020
- 06/11 Sent 'Youth Summit sponsorship request' letters to CCMA and QWaLC (Queensland Water and Land Carers)
- 12/11 Downloaded Windows 10 Version 20H2
- 14/11 AGM & 1st Ordinary Meeting of 2020-2021 Management Team
- 22/11 Online submission of ACNC annual return (Miriam Sharp)
- 02/12 Attended ZOOM meeting – Volunteering Queensland's Annual Awards Program and AGM
- 07/12 End-of-Year dinner at City Goff Club, Toowoomba
- 18/12/20-11/01/21 Office closure
- 23/12 Met with Bernadette Witham, Deputy Principal at St Ursula's College re inability to proceed with a physical gathering of students for planned 2021 Youth Summit
- 01/01 2021 Youth Summit event – No longer possible to have a physical gathering of students ... so, we need to re-imagine the undertaking as a virtual exercise of shortish ZOOM meetings
- 16/01 Special meeting to discuss options of going forward (or not) with 2021 Youth Summit
➔ Arrange follow up meeting with St Ursula's contact re: co-hosting ZOOM meetings on campus (28/01)
- 26/01 Launch of our "Directory of Heritage Facilities and Key Landmarks across the Toowoomba Regional Council jurisdiction" brochure will take place tomorrow at Highfields Pioneer Village
- 08/02 Membership spreadsheet – Formatting errors fixed by Amelia Carlson
- 13/02/21 Held quarterly Ordinary Meeting using ZOOM platform
- 14/02/21 Completed annual online QWaLC survey
- Feb-Apr Focus on re-imagining Youth Summit as 4 x 1 hour ZOOM sessions. Andrew Nicholson and I working on daily programs – guest speakers and student participants
- 01/03/21 Issued E: newsletter for March 2021
- 02/03/21 Issued globally Feature Article on Regenerative Agriculture
- 26/03/21 Gave a talk on waste minimisation to Leafmore Garden Society
- 06/04/21 Issued 'special' edition of newsletter – United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 08/04/21 I've just discovered that CLEVVI, our website host, did not update the HOPE Public Fund account in the Jotform – therefore, donations were directed to our general account.
- 10/04/21 NEW Auditor: Submitted 'client information form & authority' to Shane Wilson, DC Advisory Group
- 19-22/04/21 **virtual 2021 Youth Summit event**
- 08-10/05/21 Outlook connection to CLEVVI server down. Unable to receive/send emails. Service restored 10.51am on 10 May 2021
- 11/05/21 Postal mailout to 36 secondary schools throughout the regions re: Offering our support to on-campus student-led Environment Clubs
- 23/05/21 Issued "Agenda and Meeting Notice for 3rd Ordinary Meeting" being held on Saturday, 12 June 2021
- 01/06/21 Issued Enews Bulletin, 2021 #06 – June 2021
- 05/06/21 Local HOPE member required to present us on DDEC committee. Any volunteers?
- 10/06/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re: Report on HOPE's 'After the Virus' Podcast series
- 11/06/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re: Introduction to Eco-Social Work in Australia
- 12/06/21 Quarterly 'Ordinary Meeting – with both physical and ZOOM attendees
- 19/06/21 Stephanie Polinar has taken on the position of Website Content Officer.
- 19/06/21 Global e: mailout of "Sign the Kew Declaration to protect and restore the world's forests" initiative

26/06/21 Issued internal email request for information on Cause-and-Effect information related to “Threatened Species” and “Pest Plants and Animals”

29/06/21 Liaising with International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) regarding a Special Report on the need to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons Globally

01/07/21 Issued nationally Enews Bulletin for July 2021

27/07/21 Accounts submitted to Auditor

30/07/21 E: mailout to Australian universities re our appeal for ‘More active volunteers’. A big thanks to Stephanie Polinar for compiling the universities contact list.

01/08/21 Issued nationally Enews Bulletin for August 2021

06/08/21 Frank signaled his intention to step down as President

Current ‘Special Report’ projects are:

- Special Report on Food Security (led by Regina Kimble, HOPE researcher Qld)
- Special Report on Water Security (tbc)
- Special Report on the Circular Economy (tbc)
- Special Report on Transitioning to a Sustainable Energy Future
- Special Report on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- Special Report on the Adverse Impacts of Genetically Modified Foods, etc.

02/09/21 Issued nationally Enews Bulletin for September 2021

13/08/21 The 3 major items to report on are:

1. Grant applications: - Our grant application to the Qld Govt’s Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) to purchase a drone was successful. We propose to hold several free workshops on drone use in conjunction with drone fly-overs of properties such as Toowoomba’s Escarpment Parks, Dingo Mountain Reserve (Crows Nest) and one or two farms with significant eco-system qualities.
2. Corporate Sponsorship program: – I’ve finally made a start on issuing sponsorship requests. I propose targeting ‘waste’ industry companies and consultancies – as well as major businesses/industries nationally, State-wide (Qld) and locally (Toowoomba). If you have some spare time to help me compile name, address and email list, please contact me by return email and I’ll send you a short list to work on.
3. Feedback from you: - As the Office Manager, I’m responsible for liaising with the Executive Committee and the Admin Support Team; and the issuing of assignments. I have heard from some of our volunteers about the difficulties they are experiencing due to covid-19 impacts on their lives – especially in regards to mental health. As I too struggle from time to time with motivation, I can emphasise/emphasise with you. So, if you are unable to continue volunteering with us, just say so and I will re-assign your tasks to one of our newer volunteers. Otherwise, please let me know what your current circumstances are and we can adjust the timetable for you to complete your assignments.

10/08/21 Met with Ursie’s Earthies students (St Ursula’s College, Toowoomba) to discuss working together to promote ‘sustainability’ issues on campus

18/08/21 Submitted ‘community membership’ form to CCMA

24/08/21 Issued e: request from Amnesty International re: A Letter to PM et al re Afghanistan

24/08/21 Received access to 2021 National Landcare Conference presentations, etc. - Education Resources | 2021 National Landcare Conference

24/08/21 Received 4 sets of promotional material from students of CQU’s Digital Media Course

25/08/21 Welcome to Claire-Marie Pepper, a new volunteer researcher

26/08/21 Issued e: Agenda and Meeting Notice for 4th Ordinary Meeting, 11 Sept 2021

28/08/21 Charmaine is now also responsible for LinkedIn postings

01/09/21 Support for Zali Steggall’s Climate Change Bill acknowledged

01/09/21 Issued nationally e: HOPE’s review of recent IPCC Report (written by Andrew Nicholson)

02/09/21 Issued Enews Bulletin for September 2021

02/09/21 Received a \$5,000 donation to our HOPE Public Fund

03/09/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re World Car Free Day, 22 Sept 2021 (written by Danielle Eyre)

06/09/21 Issued ZOOM meeting details for upcoming Ordinary Meeting, Saturday 11 September 2021

07/09/21 CLEVVI, our website host provider, has informed us that they will discontinue hosting our email activity as of 10 Nov 2021. Accordingly, I have contacted our IT support people - Communications and Computer Support (CCS) – to assist in taking over the email hosting services (01/10/21). → *Task completed 19 Oct 2021.*

09/10/21 The ‘corporate’ sponsorship exercise continues slowly ... no positive results yet.

11/09/21 Ordinary Meeting (physical & ZOOM)

14-15/09/21 Review of Outlook address book and e: lists completed. Current membership stands at 554.

24/09/21 Internet Security Warning – Certificate expired 24/09/21 à CLEVVI rectified mid-morning on 28/09/21

26/09/21 Issued nationally e: Feature Article on The Earth Charter

- 27/09/21 Unable to print due to 'ADF cover not closed properly à Took printer to CCS (Communications & Computer Support) for repair. Everything a-okay now!
- 28/09/21 A week-long review of the HOPE e: address book resulted in lots of tidying up with quite a few deletions of old/lapsed members/supporters/contacts
- 01/10/21 Issued Enews Bulletin 2021 #10.2 --- October 2021
- 15/10/21 Issued AGM meeting notice and agenda

Volunteer movement:

- 28/09 Welcome to Meg Bowyer, 2nd year Bachelor of Communications student (NSW) who has volunteered to help with media and publications work
 - 18/10 Departure of several non-performing volunteers
 - 19-20/10 Enlisted 2 more volunteers - Bruna Lesaige as researcher and article writer (19/20); and Keith Robinson who has volunteered to look after our Twitter account; and assist with research and article writing (2010).
 - 23/11 Welcomed new volunteers Mariah Sampson, Leonie Eastment, Maria Hernandez (looking after HOPE's LinkedIn postings) and Zoe Nolan
 - 01/01 Welcomed new volunteers Chrissy Rimi (Qld) and Amelia Carlson (Qld)
 - 02/02 Welcomed new 'local' volunteers – Adam Walter and Elizabeth Houston
- Volunteers seem to be coming and going quite regularly these days – making it difficult to manage the re-assignment of tasks. In particular we farewelled Sean Egan our Media Officer (18/04) and Maria Hernandez who looked after our LinkedIn account (25/05). New volunteers helping with research and article writing include Adam Walter, Allan Buchanan, Conor Murphy, Jade Leyden, Lance McKenzie, Mireille Eid, Stephanie Polinar, Wayne Roddom and Xiang "Phoebe" Huang.
- 23/05/21 Current "Admin Support Team" vacancies include LinkedIn Content Admin, Media Officers, Membership Officer and Website Content Maintenance Assistant
 - May 2021 Welcome new volunteers Xiang "Phoebe" Huang, Lance McKenzie and Stephanie Polinar (Qld); Ying Qin 'Ariel' Lim (Tas); Andrew Pomery (Vic); and Patricia Brana (int – Cuba)
- Volunteers still seem to be coming and going quite regularly – making it difficult to manage the re-assignment of tasks. Current admin support vacancies are LinkedIn Content Admin, Media Officers and Membership Officer
- New volunteers include Stephanie Polinar (Website Content Officer), Stephanie Mitchell, Suzi O'Shea, Penny Tankir, Katie Jenkins (WA), Cassie Woods (Qld), Morna McGuire (NSW), James Ahern (SA), Homaera Islam (ACT), Paramita Parinyanupap (Qld), Fran Hebblewhite (ACT), Jen Johnson (Vic), Pimchanok 'Atom' Suwanteerangkul (Qld) and Clair-Marie Pepper (Qld)
- Sept-Oct Recruitment of volunteers has been steady, although several have also left us. The new volunteer researchers are Jason Dingley, Dr Amruta Nawarange, Lili Greer, Jingjing Ye, Rodney Duncan

Media Releases:

- 20/09 Issued Qld-wide media release re: HOPE supports QCC's environmental asks of next Queensland government
- 01/10 Issued Qld-wide media releases re: Funding vital to work of Environmental Defenders Office; and NatureAssist Program
- 05/12 Issued media release re: International Mountain Day, 11 Dec 2020
- 17/12 Issued media release re: New Heritage brochure one step closer
- 20/01 Issued media release re: New Heritage brochure to be launched on Australia Day at Highfields Pioneer Village
- 26/03/21 Issued media release re: Citizen Science style PhotoVoice Project
- 30/03/21 Issued media release re: 2021 Youth Summit
- 08/04/21 Interview with Susannah Birch of toowoomba.com re Youth Summit
- 19/04/21 Re-launch our PhotoVoice project nationally – circulate media release to all media contacts, plus envNGOS and HOPE members and supporters
- 21/05/21 Issued email Date Claimer re: World Environment Day, 5 June 2021
- 04/07/21 Issued nationally e: media release re: Support Offer to Secondary School "On-campus Student-led Environment Clubs"
- 23/08/21 Issued e: media release re World Ozone Day, 16 Sept 2021 (written by Danielle Eyre)
- 14/09/21 Issued nationally e: media release Re: National Organic Week, 20th-26th September 2021
- 18/09/21 Issued nationally e: media release Re: International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, Wednesday 29th September 2021
- 22/09/21 Issued nationally e: media release Re: International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- 28/09/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re: United Nations World Habitat Day, Monday 4th October 2021

Grant applications:

- 18/10 Submitted 2 online funding applications re: 2021 Youth Summit
- 11/11 Heritage brochure – Funding application to Mazda Foundation unsuccessful
 - ➔ Fresh application submitted to ARTC Inland Rail (12/11)
- 18/11 Funding application (to Federal Government) for fuel costs was unsuccessful
- 24/11 Arrow Energy has approved our funding application to develop a “Directory of Heritage Facilities and Landmarks across Toowoomba Regional Council” brochure
 - ➔ Brochure to be launched at Australia Day celebrations at Highfields Pioneer Village
- 04/12 Grant application to Honda Foundation re Printing on UN SDG posters was unsuccessful
- 15/12 Unsuccessful grant application to RACQ Foundation re: Heritage brochure
- 16/12 Unsuccessful grant application to Aurizon Community Giving re: Youth Summit
- 28/01 Acquittal of Arrow Energy’s Brighter Futures grant of Heritage brochure
- 12/02 CEP Grant – Acquitted. All relevant documents emailed to CEP Office.
- 18/02/21 Unsuccessful grant application to Inland Rail re Waste Hierarchy brochure
- 23/02/21 Submitted online funding application to Queensland Community Foundation re: Development of Waste Minimisation brochure
- 19/03/21 Unsuccessful grant application to Australian Communities Foundation re: Waste Minimisation Brochure project
- 09/04/21 Submitted EOI re Fed Vol Grant to Groom Electoral Office to cover volunteer’s fuel costs
- 14/04/21 Submitted online funding application to GCBF re: Drone acquisition
- 15/04/21 Unsuccessful grant application Queensland Community Foundation re: Waste Minimisation brochure
- 15/05/21 Submitted application to TRC Micro Grant program – for office consumables
- 01/06/21 Yahoo! TRC (Toowoomba Regional Council) Micro Grant funding application approved!
- 02/06/21 Submitted formal application to Federal Government’s Volunteer Grants program for \$1,200 to cover fuel costs
- 07/06/21 Submitted online grant application to Arrow Energy’s Brighter Futures Program re Development of 3 -fold Waste Minimisation brochure
- 14/06/21 TRC Micro Grant acquittal form submitted and accepted.
- 21/07/21 Submitted grant application to TRC re: Development and printing of Waste Minimisation brochure
- 09/08/21 Yahoo! Grant application to GCBF successful. We’ll be getting \$4,277.90 to purchase a drone for landcare/conservation workshops and field work.
- 21/09/21 “Waste Minimisation’ brochure project - Grant application to TRC unsuccessful. Try some local corporates and/or philanthropic trusts.

Submissions:

Nil to date

Account activity:

- 14/09 HOPE Public Fund bank account with Westpac re-established and activated
- 22/09 Purchased box of 100 postage stamps – cheque. No 200710, \$110 with GSDT = \$10.00
- 27/10 Requested CLEVVI update our website’s Twitter button with new handle ➔ Paid \$42.63 with GST = \$3.88 (cheque no. 200711)
- 19/11 Submitted OFT Trading annual return -- \$56.60 (cheque no. = 200712, GST = \$0.00)
- 27/01 Paid contractor’s invoice re Heritage brochure -- cheque no. = 200713, \$660 with GST component \$60
- 11/02 Paid CRE P/L final payment for CEP Project -- cheque no. = 200714, \$11,000 with GST component \$1,000
- 15/02/21 Received a very generous donation of \$1,650 from Crossroads Rural and Environment P/L
- 18/03/21 Paid \$100 to Telstra for Phone/Internet charges for March 2021 (cheque no 200715 = \$100, GST = \$9.09)
- 09/04/21 Paid CLEVVI \$85 to add LinkedIn button to HOPE website (cheque no. = 200718, amt = \$85 with GST \$7.73)
- 13/04/21 Paid St Ursula’s College re ZOOM Licence payment (cheque no, - 200717, amt = \$100.22, no GST)
- 01/06/21 Pay ‘Volunteering Queensland’ for Membership Renewal 2021-2022 à \$110 with GST = \$10 (cheque no. = 200718)
- 03/06/21 Pay ‘CLEVVI’ for Annual Hosting à \$489.50 with GST = \$44.50 (Cheque no. = 200719)
- 11/06/21 TRC Micro Grant monies banked - \$534.05
- 14/06/21 Paid Australia Post \$110 (GST = \$10) for a box of 100 stamps (cheque no. 200720)
- 14/06/21 Paid Officeworks \$441 (GST = \$40.09) for 12 cartons of photocopy paper and 3 mini-drives
- 20/07/21 Paid QCC Membership Renewal for 2021-22 à Cheque no. 200723, \$33 with GST = \$3
- 27/07/21 Accounts submitted to Auditor
- 11/08/21 Received \$4,277.90 grant monies from GCBF
- 02/09/21 Received a \$5,000 donation to our HOPE Public Fund
- 09/10/21 The 2020-2021 accounts have been audited and the \$5,000 donation puts us in a good financial position for the next couple of years.

30/09/21 Audited accounts collected. Invoice paid -- cheque no 200724 = \$770 with GST = \$70
30/09/21 Paid 'Fly the Farm' \$4,277.90 for drone (cheque no = 200725 with GST = \$388.90)
01/10/21 Paid "Colmac Computers P/L" \$40 for repair of printer – cheque no = 200726 with GST = 3.64
05/10/21 Posted our annual BAS return to ATO. We should receive a GST refund of \$112
11/10/21 Transfer \$5,000 from HOPE Public Fund to our general account
