

## HOPE News --- March 2018

Good morning,

*In reviewing the past month's activities, I realized that not all was smooth sailing.*

*Lots of effort went into planning and preparing for our quarterly Ordinary Meeting (10 Feb) and our first Community Forum on "Important Honey Flora of South-East Queensland" (1 Mar) – but alas, only limited numbers attended both events.*

*Our second community forum, scheduled for 5 April, is being postponed due to the unavailability of our guest speaker.*

*On the positive side, the committee and admin support staff (all of whom are volunteers) have been busy with office highlights being:*

- *Regular recruitment of volunteers (Rebecca, Alessio, Bernie, Andrea and Jyoti) who are helping with internet research and writing lots of articles, website summaries and helpful hints items for our newsletter, website and social media. Thanks to all of you for your contributions.*
- *Andrew Nicholson has been accepted as our delegate to a stakeholder group developing a "Human Health and Wellbeing Sector Climate Adaptation Plan for Queensland (H-SAP)"*
- *HOPE has applied for Associate Membership to Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA).*
- *Great news! U3A Toowoomba has accepted our offer of a course on Sustainability for Term 2 of this year. Myself and Andrew Nicholson will co-tutor the course.*
- *HOPE volunteer t-shirts – For those of you who do not yet have one of our t-shirts, please let me know of your size and I'll put a t-shirt aside for you. Likewise, for those of you who require a replacement t-shirt, please let me know asap.*
- *12/02 Received \$200 sponsorship from Computer Troubleshooters (Tmba)*
- *13/02 Submission to WA govt re: Proposed legislation to provide compensation to organic and conventional farmers impacted by contamination events by GM farmers (as per pro forma letter supplied)*
- *13/02 Submission to Federal Govt re: Strategy for Nature 2018-2030. Thanks to Jacinta Saad for preparing our submission.*
- *14/02 Issued email nationally re: Annual Fund-raising Appeal*
- *16/02 Spoke at Cultural Diversity Network (CDN) meeting on UN Sustainable Development Goals and what we could do locally in the Toowoomba region*
- *16/02 Received an invitation from Family Daycare providers to provide a workshop on sustainable living practices. Andrew Nicholson to follow up on specific requirements of presentation.*
- *17/02 Issued media release for Community Forum on "Important Honey Flora" being held on 1<sup>st</sup> March at Toowoomba City Library*
- *19/02 Received and actioned invitation to 2018 Logan Eco Action Festival (being held on Sunday, 27 May 2018, 10am – 3pm)*
- *19/02 Submitted online application to The Grants Hub for \$500 to cover fuel costs*
- *20/02 Issued email nationally promoting Earth Hour, 24 March 2018*
- *28/02 Submitted online funding application to the Qld Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) for a new computer with sufficient memory and hardware capabilities to properly run Windows 10 and MS Office 2016; and a new tv monitor to show environmental films, etc. from a portable hard drive.*
- *02/03 Issued e: information letter on availability of Nature Journaling workshops to schools, scouts and guides in the Toowoomba region*

*Wow! I think all of the positive items certainly far outweigh the negatives.*

*Please show your support for Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. (Australia) by helping where you can. Be it by attending meetings and events, contributing items for the newsletter, website and social media; or offering financial support and/or in-kind donations of office consumables like postage stamps and photocopy paper.*

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

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## Report on Ordinary Meeting, 10 February 2018



The agenda for February's Ordinary Meeting was quite full, so it was a pity that we had more apologies that attendees on the day.

Our guest speaker, MaryLou Gittens (pictured) from Condamine Catchment Management Assn (CCMA) and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) spoke about the roles and responsibilities of national, state and regional NRM/landcare agencies; and the possible formation of a new NRM (Natural Resource Management) group for the Toowoomba region

After MaryLou's presentation was followed by discussion on providing more "Back to Basics" type information in our newsletter; seeking grant funding for a number of landcare/NRM and related projects – as well as an application for a new computer and television monitor.



Lastly, congratulations to Frank Ondrus, our President and Office Manager, for winning the inaugural "Unsung Hero for Sustainable Development Goal themes in 2017" awarded by United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Queensland Branch.

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## Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include:

- Researchers – required to review and comment on a range of discussion papers, policy documents and reports provided by government departments, business and industry organisations and NGOs.
- Media Officers – required to write media releases, event notices, date claimers and design promotional flyers/posters for projects, campaigns, events and activities
- Publications Team members – required to write information articles for our newsletter; website summaries; and assist with the development of powerpoint presentations and information sheets
- Newsletter Editor – required to write and/or source articles and other items for compilation into monthly E: News Bulletin (formal Job Description available on request)

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

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