

HOPE News 2018 #04 --- April 2018

Good morning,

The month of March rolled along quite quickly with lots of meetings (both internal and external); preparation and submission of 7 grant applications; a trip to Brisbane to collect 2 lots of literature for our upcoming information displays; submission to Qld Government on Vegetation Management Bill; Special General Meeting to ratify corrections to Constitution; and a field trip on the use and application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (i.e. drones).

A special thanks to member Andrew Nicholson for preparing and delivering workshop material to a group of Family Day Care providers; and developing a short course on Sustainability for U3A Toowoomba.

Summary of March highlights:

- 01/03 Community Forum: "Important Honey Flora" presented by Mr Glen Tucker of Southern Beekeepers Assn
- 06/03 Submission to Qld Govt re: Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Thanks to Jacinta Saad for undertaking the review on our behalf.
- 06/03 Meeting to discuss proposal to establish new Natural Resource Management (NRM) body for South-West Queensland
- 07/03 Trip to Brisbane to collect information display literature
- 08/03 Submission of grant applications for:
- New computer and tv monitor – to Gambling Community Benefit Fund (Qld)
 - "Creating Wildlife Friendly Properties and Landscape Connectivity" workshops – to Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC), Ergon Energy and Nexus
 - "Using Drones to Survey Landscapes" – to TRC and Nexus
 - "Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage" information sessions – to Climate Action Network Australia (CANA)
- 14/03 Our 'project' brief to Central Queensland University (CQU) Digital Media department was unsuccessful
- 17/03 Andrew Nicholson delivered a workshop on Sustainability to a group of Family Day Care providers
- 19/03 Submission to Places You Love Alliance "Better laws for a better planet: a symposium on the future of Australia's environment laws"
- 21/03 Issued nationally a promotional media release on HOPE
- 21/03 Endorsed "open letter to federal parliamentarians" re Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017, the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Bill 2017 and the National Security Legislation Amendment (Espionage and Foreign Interference) Bill 2017.
- 24/03 Special General Meeting to ratify constitution corrections.
- 27/03 Attended field day – Information on, and demonstration of, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
- 29/03 Attended workshop on "achievements in NRM over the past 15 years"

April is looking somewhat quieter for us with invitations to attend 2 external meetings in Toowoomba; and the commencement of HOPE's "What is Sustainable Development?" course for U3A Toowoomba. A huge thanks to Andrew for developing the course material and volunteering to facilitate the course, which will run for 10 weeks.

Summary of April highlights:

- 05/04 Postponement of community forum due to unavailability of guest speaker
- 11/04 Invitation to attend Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) workshop on Green Infrastructure
- 17/04 Invitation to attend Environmental Education Expo

On a personal note, congratulations to Anjan and Kabari on the birth of their second child, daughter Aloka; and to Jihau and Chong You on the birth of their first child, son Kevin. We wish both families well.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au