

HOPE News – July 2017

Good morning folks,

June was another busy and productive month for HOPE with the holding of 2 events.

Firstly, our quarterly Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday 10 June reviewed the past 3 months activities with major highlights being:

- Written submissions made to 2 federal government discussion papers
- Review and comment on 2 envNGO reports
- Staging of 2 community forums (18/02 and 22/04)
- Funding application to Nexus re “Supporting Peri-Urban Landholders with Wildlife Friendly Gardens and Landscape Connectivity”
- Attended “National Sustainability in Business” conference in Brisbane (23-24/03)
- Held National Youth Event on 8 April – focusing on “Youth Engagement in Landcare” and “Volunteering for the Environment”
- Held information talk on Native Bees (20/05)

Also discussed at this meeting was our Frank Ondrus’ intention to retire as President at the end of the 2017-2018 term of office. Frank indicated that the committee, admin support staff and general membership would need to consider:

- succession planning options – including possible recruitment from outside the organisation;
- HOPE’s mission statement; objectives and breadth of activities; and
- Financial security – including more fund-raising measures such as the introduction of membership fees, sponsorship and Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

If you would like to contribute to “The Future of HOPE” discussions and/or volunteer some of your time and talents to help manage the organisation, please contact the office by phoning 07 4639 2135 or send an email to office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

Our second event for June was the “Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage” community forum held on 17 June. 20 people were on hand to hear from ACDC Energy (<http://www.acdcenergy.com.au/>) representatives Terry Davis and Paul Lemming.

If you live in the Toowoomba region and you are interested in ‘going solar’, let us know and will arrange another information session or two later in the year.

Finally, I hope to see you at our picnic social on Saturday 15 July. It’s an opportunity for you to meet some of the committee and admin support staff.

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

Social Picnic, 15 July 2017

For our next HOPE Social, we’ll be visiting the Peacehaven Botanic Garden and Nursery at 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields on **Saturday, 15 July**. Join us at **11am** for a tour of the native plants nursery; and a picnic afterwards in the park. Please byo chair and lunch.

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels 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, Media Officers and Publications Team members.

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 or phone (07) 4639 2135.
