



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD 4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135; Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

Office News Report --- February 2017

Good afternoon folks,

Firstly, a big thanks to all of our members and supporters nationally for forwarding us lots of fantastic, interesting and useful information on a variety of environmental subjects. Please continue to send in this great material.

We are keen to add to our Alliance/Partnership program (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances-ngos/>), so if you aware of an envNGO doing great things – and their mission statement aligns with the HOPE Charter – please forward their contact details to us and we'll do the rest.

Queensland-wide, we encourage you to support the work of Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) <http://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/> and Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) <http://qwalc.org.au/>.

Of course, here in Toowoomba, we invite you to support us and our local colleagues by attending and or supporting our respective meetings, community events, campaigns and special projects. Please check the items below for further information on HOPE's activities, etc.

Regards,

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

Ordinary Meeting, 11 Feb 2017

This month's activities include our quarterly **Ordinary Meeting** being held on **Saturday 11 February** at the HOPE Office, **22 Vacy St, Toowoomba, commencing at 10am sharp!**

Items of business include a summary of our grant applications; the 2017 Community Forum program; current and proposed special projects including National Youth Week (8 April 2017) and "Creating Wildlife Habitats in YOUR Backyard" workshop(s) (date(s) to be confirmed).

If you are coming along to the meeting, please RSVP by Thursday 9 February to assist with seating and catering arrangements.

2017 Community Forum Program

Our first community forum for 2017, "**Organic Gardening – The Natural Way**" is on Saturday 18 February at the Toowoomba City Library (cnr of Herries & Victoria Sts, Toowoomba), from 1pm to 4pm.

Guest speakers include Mike Wells and Peter Macqueen, lecturers at Toowoomba TAFE Horticulture; and Colin Johnson from Earthlife Pty Ltd.

Mike will give an "Introduction to Organic Gardening", Peter will speak on "Organic Pest Control - Non-toxic preparations for insect & disease control" and Colin will talk about "Healthy soils, healthy plants ... it's that simple!".

Bookings are essential and entry is by gold coin donation.

Please reserve your place at the forum by phoning the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 or by email to office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Draft 2017 Community Forum program

DATE	START TIME	END TIME	THEME	SPEAKER(S)
18 Feb	1pm	4pm	1) An Introduction to Organic Gardening 2) Organic Pest Control - Non-toxic preparations for insect & disease control 3) Healthy soils, healthy plants ... it's that simple!	1) Mike Wells, TAFE Horticulture 2) Peter Macqueen, TAFE Horticulture 3) Colin Johnson, Earthlife Pty Ltd
22 Apr	ditto	ditto	The Value of Heritage to Queensland (and the Darling Downs)	Qld Heritage Council, Stephanie Keays and Gail Lipke
17 June	ditto	ditto	Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage	Terry Davis & Michael Reiken, Excel Solar
19 Aug	ditto	ditto	An Overview of Condamine Alliance (NRM / Landcare) - beginnings, current achievements and future plans	Various staff
21 Oct	ditto	ditto	An afternoon with Jerry Coleby-Williams	Jerry Coleby-Williams, ABC Gardening Australia TV presenter and Patron of HOPE

2017 Social Program

The Office has proposed the following dates and venues for BYO “picnic” socials throughout 2017:

- 18 Mar, 12noon Queens Park, East Toowoomba (off Lindsay St)
- 17 May, 12noon Highfields Pioneer Village & Museum, 73 Wirraglen Rd, Highfields
- 15 July, 11am start Peacehaven Botanic Park & Nursery, 56 Kuhls Road, Highfields
- 16 Sept, 12noon Japanese Gardens, USQ precinct (entrance of West St, Toowoomba)
- 18 Nov, 12noon Laurel Bank Park, Herries St, Toowoomba

Also, we are keen to organise group (10 or more) bookings to attend one or more of the Toowoomba Repertory <http://www.toowoombarepertorytheatre.com.au/index.html> (94 Margaret St, Toowoomba) productions scheduled for 2017.

The draft program of productions

Dates	Title	Author	Genre
Feb 16 - Mar 4	<i>“Australia Day”</i>	Jonathan Biggins	Comedy
April 25 - May 13	<i>“The One Day of the Year”</i>	Alan Seymour	Drama
July 12 - 29	<i>“The Visitors”</i>	Barney Norris	Comedy
Sept 18 - 23	<i>Festival of One-Act Plays</i> Play Writing Competition Performances	TBA	TBA
Nov 8 - 25	<i>“Don’t Dress for Dinner”</i>	Marc Camoletti	Comedy

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS FOR HOPE AUSTRALIA

By Charmaine Turnbull, HOPE’s Social Media Administrator

Are you aware that HOPE Australia has several social media accounts? You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Linked In, Instagram and of course our website www.hopeaustralia.org.au .

Have you read our articles and thought that you would like to know more about that subject? Or maybe you have a question to ask but aren’t sure how to ask it? Would any of you be interested in HOPE Australia going ‘live’ on Facebook once a week where you could ask all of your questions? Let us know what you think.

The articles we promote through our Facebook account are articles we think will resonate with our members/followers/readers. They are about the environment and how we can make it better, about sustainable living and any tips and tricks we may have found and think our audience would be interested in. We have regular members who send us info and articles but are always looking for more.

On our Facebook page, we promote local events in the area. Whilst these aren't created by HOPE Australia, we feel that promoting them through our social media will enable a wider audience to be aware of these activities.

Our Twitter feeds are about events happening in the next week or so, and about events or activities happening in the wider area.

Our Instagram account is generally focussed on interesting pictures/photos/images about the environment and animals.

Our Linked In page is managed by our President – Frank Ondrus.

We look forward to reading any articles/photos/ideas you send us.

Website - www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment/>

Twitter - @HOPE_Australia_

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/hope_australia/

Linked In - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/frank-ondrus-3b8aba102/>

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 Media Officers and Newsletter Editor.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email 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 or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Your financial support sought- <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

We invite members and supporters to consider making an annual financial contribution to help cover our operating costs of approximately \$20,500 p.a.

Currently, our income is derived from project grants, fund-raising, corporate sponsorship and donations, but falls well short of our requirements.

Your financial support, by way of an annual pledge or donation, will considerably help us to achieve better financial viability.

Advertising Rates

HOPE is keen to raise some much-needed revenue through the introduction of paid advertising in our newsletter.

At this stage, we are offering business card sized adverts for \$30 + \$3 GST per edition; OR \$300 + \$30 GST for a full year.

If interested, please send your advert to office@hopeaustrlia.org.au and your payment to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350.

(Direct debit banking details available on request.)



“Ecological footprint - the impact of a person or community on the environment, expressed as the amount of land required to sustain their use of natural resources.”

What's your personal/family footprint?

<http://www.wwf.org.au/get-involved/change-the-way-you-live/ecological-footprint-calculator#gs.0qgSUIg>

<http://www.earthday.org/take-action/footprint-calculator/>

<http://ecologicalfootprint.com/>

<http://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-largest-ecological-footprints.html>