

HOPE News --- December 2017

Good morning,

The past month has seen the office staff busy preparing for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the new committee for 2017-2018.

Both these meetings were held on Saturday 11 November and I'm pleased to announce that we have almost a full committee and team of admin support staff to take us forward into 2018.

Copies of the Presidents report and AGM election results are noted below.

In closing, the Management Committee welcomes your input on envNGOs and others we should partner with in the future; the range of issues we should support/promote and/or advocate for; and the types of events we should organise ourselves or in partnership with others.

Please you're your suggestions to the office at office@hopeasutrialia.org.au .

May you all have an enjoyable break over the festive season.

Regards,

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

President's Report for 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 year was long and busy; and, on reflection, difficult for me.

Looking at the positives aspects first, we had:

- a full committee and complement of admin staff which expressed enthusiasm for the year ahead.
- supported Highfields Pioneer Village & Museum by managing an appeal for plants to landscape the area around their new mini stream railway.
- arranged a program of 5 community forums (to be held on the even months between February and October)
- suggested having 'shared lunch-time picnic' outings on the odd months of the year
- a "Talk on Native Bees" co-hosted by Southern Beekeepers Assn. (20 May) - with a full capacity of 50+ people in attendance
- committed to provide information displays for the Logan Eco Action Festival (31 May), Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival (20 Aug) and U3A Toowoomba's *Seniors Expo* (23 Aug)
- received funding to hold 2 Nature Journaling workshops as our contribution to National Youth Week (Apr 2017)

We also explored funding opportunities for various undertakings including landcare projects; and a series of Information Sessions on "Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage".

A number of our volunteers also assisted by providing submissions on State and Federal Government discussion papers.

Encouragingly, we were able send delegates to a number of conferences and forums throughout the year, due to either complimentary or heavily discounted registration fees.

Disappointing aspects of the year include:

- resignation of Sue from the committee, leaving the secretary and treasurer positions vacant (Feb 2017)
- unsuccessful outcomes to grant applications for:
 - new and/or replacement computer equipment and office furniture (2 attempts)
 - training for committees
 - **"Acknowledging the contribution that Darling Downs women have made to protecting our environment" (Qld Women's Week)**
 - proposed information sessions on "going solar" (4 attempts)
 - Creating Wildlife Friendly Backyards workshops (2 attempts)
- interest in our community forum program fluctuated with the last 2 forums being cancelled due to low registration and unavailability of speaker respectively
- response to early social outings was negligible – so, it was decided to have the social in conjunction with our quarterly meetings.

As I said, the year was busy and it provided me with some difficulties.

I'd like to thank:

- the Management Committee and Admin Support Staff for their dedicated work throughout the year;
- the many envNGOs, government agencies and businesses who shared their expertise and resources with us; and

- particular thanks to local State and Federal politicians who provided free photocopying throughout the year.

In closing, I wish to thank the out-going committee for their efforts and wish the in-coming committee all the best.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

Office Bearers for 2017-2018

- President - Frank Ondrus
 - Vice-President - Steve Cupitt
 - Secretary - Miriam Sharp
 - Treasurer (acting) - Miriam Sharp
 - Extra member selected from admin support staff listed below
 - Ordinary members who fulfil administration support roles as:
 - Office Manager - Frank Ondrus
 - Newsletter Editor* -
 - Website Administrator* - Dan Cannan
 - Membership Officer* - Barry Miller
 - Social Media Administrator* - Charmaine Turnbull
 - Admin assistants (media /publications, etc.) -
- * - These positions can be undertaken remotely by phone and email communication.

Also, Jerry Coleby-Williams (from ABC's Gardening Australia program) continues on as our Patron; and Robert Crosato, Crosato Country Enterprises continues as our auditor

Membership

In recent years our membership numbers have remained steady at around 650 full and associate members. The management committee is keen to increase our membership nationally and so invites you to help promote HOPE and its activities to your family, friends and work colleagues. Remember, membership to HOPE is FREE! More information on the types of membership may be found at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/membership/>.

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

Advertisement

FOR SALE



HOPE polo shirts - \$30 each

- Ladies: sizes 12, 14 and 16
- Men's: sizes L, 2XL, 4XL

Contact the office on 4639 2135 to arrange payment and pick-up.

(Photo taken at Ipswich Plant Expo, March 2016)