

Office News Report --- March 2015

Good afternoon folks,

It seems that the more we do, the more we are asked to do.

That's good in theory, but not in practice, as we simply don't have sufficient committee and admin support staff to do all this work.

For example, when someone is sick, out of town (or overseas) or has another commitment, our efforts to hold meetings, etc., are compromised - as was the case with our poorly attended quarterly Ordinary Meeting of 14th March.

We therefore invite you to step up and help us to manage HOPE's projects, campaigns and activities at the national, state (Queensland) and local level (Toowoomba).

Highlights of the past few weeks:

- 21 Feb – Frank Ondrus and Andrew Nicholson attended Darling Downs Environment Council (DDEC) *Strategic Café* meeting
- 26 Feb – successful information display held at University of Southern Queensland (USQ) Market Day event
- 28 Feb – attended “anti-CSG mining” Unity Action Symposium in Chinchilla
- 14 Mar – HOPE quarterly Ordinary Meeting – limited discussion and action due to lack of quorum

Farewells

We farewell Joseph Mula (admin support) who has accepted a voluntary teaching position in China; and Shawn Dang (website manager) who is also relocating overseas. We thank them both for their contributions.

Positions Vacant

- Vice President - duties include chairing meetings, media spokesman and supporting projects
- Website Manager - maintain ‘freshness’ of website by doing regular maintenance; and sourcing new material
- Admin support – various tasks from helping with internet research, article writing, media support and staffing of information displays, etc. at community events

Community Forum program

- Our community forum program started well with 23 people attending the 7th February event featuring Dave Grubb and Pam Pittaway. Dave and Pam spoke on “*Organics – more than growing food*” (covering soil health and the difference between mulch and compost).
- The March community forum on “*Decongestion – 7 steps for Mayors and other City Leaders to cut traffic congestion, without the expense of new roads or annoyed residents*” was called off due to a lack of registrations. We'll endeavour to reschedule this topic for later in the year.
- There is no April event due to the Easter long weekend.
- Joanne Galea from Designs for Creation Pty Ltd is our guest speaker for 2nd May community forum. Joanne will provide an *Introduction to Building Biology*.

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135

Office Hours

HOPE's office is open every Monday from 9am to 5pm; with the library resources available at the same time. Other times by appointment only.

Phone the office on 07 4639 2135 to signal your interest in coming along for a chat or to access the library.

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.)