

## Office News Report --- May 2015

Good afternoon folks,

Another busy period for us at the office with the staging of the May community forum (2 May); showcasing organic gardening at the 2 day Gardenfest event (9-10 May); and keeping up with a stack of media and article commitments.

Now we are also busy preparing for the June community forum (6 June) and our quarterly Ordinary Meeting (13 June).

### Reports:

A small but enthusiastic audience was on hand at our May community forum to hear Mrs Joanne Galea from Designs for Creation give an Introduction to Building Biology. A feature article on Building Biology may be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

A big thanks to volunteers Shannon Michael, David Graham and Max Logan for their contributions of articles, media releases and website summaries – some of which are published in this edition; whilst others have appeared in the local, state and national media.



Our information display and demonstration activities at this year's Gardenfest event held on 9-10 May at the Toowoomba Showgrounds was well received by attendees.

A big thanks to the Plan Ahead Events, the organisers, for giving us a huge 6m x 6m free site. Thanks to our supporters for providing literature; raffle prizes; and free photocopying. Much appreciated one and all.

Lastly, thankyou to the HOPE members and friends who helped with setting up our

wonderful display on the Friday, staffing the site over the weekend and helping with packing up the site – Joy van der Wyk, Wayne Ole, Terry Ryan, Ian Simons, Frank & Mary Ondrus, Neil Tracey-Smith, Charmaine Atkinson and Kerry Kruger.

(A full report of our Gardenfest activities is available at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/projects-events/2015/>)

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135, [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

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### WANTED – USED POSTAGE STAMPS

HOPE collects used postage stamps and/or un-wanted stamp albums for community groups' fund-raising purposes.

Please consider collecting used postage stamps from home and/or work, and forwarding a pack of used stamps to the HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) office, PO Box 6118 - Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba, QLD 4350; or drop them off at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.

### WANTED – PHOTOCOPY PAPER

HOPE has used its current stock of photocopy paper and we are asking our members and supporters to donate a ream or two of A4 photocopy paper. Donations of paper can be left on the table in the carport at 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba. Cash or cheque donations can be posted to HOPE Inc., PO Box 6118 Clifford Gardens Toowoomba QLD 4350.

Remember – we can't exist without the help of our members and supporters. We appreciate each and every individual who assists us no matter how small their effort is :->

### Positions Vacant

Due to the recent departures of key committee and admin support staff, we are in urgent need of extra personnel to fill the following vacancies:

- Vice President - duties include chairing meetings; and provide media comment projects, campaigns and general activities
  - 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
  - State Liaison Officers to be responsible for promoting HOPE in their jurisdictions
  - Newsletter Team to solicit and/or write articles – with the editor compiling the newsletter
  - Media Team to prepare media releases, community service announcements, date claimers, etc.; and to assist with research and writing (feature) articles
  - Website Manager to keep information up-to-date
  - Librarian – to complete the cataloguing of our resources; and to undertake weekly maintenance updates
- So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please give the office a call on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

**We need to share the ever-increasing workload by recruiting more active members and volunteers.**

**The management committee deals with policy and direction matters; and staff deal with the day to day operations. And, as we have no paid staff, management committee and volunteers are responsible for carrying out the operational tasks.**

## Upcoming events

### **6 June – HOPE Community Forum: Living Sustainably – Back to Basics**

(at the Dr Price Room, 6 Little St, Toowoomba, from 4pm to 6pm)

A panel made up of HOPE members and associates will each give short 10-15 minute presentations on topics such as waste minimisation, organic gardening, chemical free households, building design and renewables.

Following a short break for refreshments, the speakers will assemble for a panel discussion and an open Q & A session.

This is your chance to reap the benefits of years of experience on sustainable living; and receive practical advice, based on real-world knowledge.

For further information or to reserve your seat at the June community forum please contact the HOPE office on ph: 07 4639 2135 or by email at: [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) .

### **13 June – Ordinary Meeting**

HOPE's next quarterly Ordinary Meeting will be held at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba on Saturday 13 June commencing at 10am.

Agenda items include the adoption of our Business Plan and discussion on the Membership Fess Options proposal.

Please RSVP by Thursday 14 June to assist with seating and catering arrangements

### **Annual Pledge/Donation - <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](mailto: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.)

**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.