

Office News Report – June 2015

Good afternoon folks,

The past few weeks at the office have been busier than usual - and being short-staffed hasn't helped. Quite a lot of time was spent on organising and promoting the 6th of June community forum; preparing for the 13th of June quarterly Ordinary Meeting; and the production of this newsletter.

As stated in previous e: newsletters, we have a number of vacancies on the Management Committee and in Admin Support. For HOPE Australia to function effectively and consistently at the local, state and national levels, we need your support.

Please take note of the Succession Planning and Positions Vacant articles – and, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please consider stepping up to help with the running of our organisation.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Report on Community Forum held on 6 June



We welcomed 7 speakers to the June community forum. Each person spoke for about 10 minutes on their chosen Back to Basics topic.

Topics covered included backyard organic gardening; low density irrigation; Local Energy Trading Systems (aka Community Exchange program); the benefits of solar PV electricity; weed control and bush regeneration (Friends of the Escarpment Parks) – and the allocated 10 minutes was way too short for each area of interest, but they did well!

The Q&A session with the the full panel of speakers was animated and interesting.

The exchange of information and provided literature was appreciated by all in attendance.

Report on Ordinary Meeting held on 13 June

For the effort that went into planning and holding the quarterly meeting, it was disappointing that we had 3 members in attendance and 8 apologies.

Key matters discussed and actioned included:

- the adoption of the Business Plan as drafted by Joseph Mula
 - the lapsing of the Membership Fee Options proposal
 - focus on attracting corporate sponsorship
 - Succession Planning to be noted in June e: newsletter
 - advertise vacancies on the Management Committee and Admin Support in the June e: newsletter
 - recruiting more volunteers – do more promotion at University of Southern Queensland (USQ)
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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.

Succession Planning – a few words from the President

I have been involved with HOPE since 1993. Firstly, as the Convenor of HOPE Toowoomba and then as Coordinator of HOPE Queensland.

In 2007, HOPE became an incorporated association - establishing HOPE Australia as a network of members and supporters promoting sustainable living practices.

I was elected as the inaugural President of HOPE and have retained that position ever since.

My wish was to step down as President of HOPE when I turned 60. That was 2 years ago!

We need to recruit people with “an appropriate mix of expertise and experience” to strengthen our management committee and admin support staff.

Ideally, the Vice President would be groomed to step up into the President’s chair for 2-3 years to provide stability, continuity and leadership to the group.

Members of the admin support staff are invited to step up and assume roles on the management committee.

Others are then encouraged to step up into admin support roles.

I invite you to consider what you might be able to personally contribute – and who else we could recruit to fill vacant positions on the management committee and admin support areas.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135

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 .

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.