

Office News Report --- March 2016

Good afternoon folks,

This past month has been more hectic than usual, due to:

- the commencement of our 2nd local Landcare project – “Encouraging Peri-Urban landholders to develop Wildlife Friendly Gardens and Landscape Connectivity”;
- the non-stop preparations for our participation at the 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo;
- seeking expressions of interest from secondary schools in the Toowoomba region to participate in our 3rd Landcare project – Youth Engagement in Landcare; and
- the submission of a funding application to Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC), to stage a Building Biology workshop.

Partnerships – Businesses

HOPE has joined forces with a number of sustainability focused businesses to form mutually advantageous partnerships based on shared values.

Our business partners to date are Green Harvest, Excel Power/Excel Solar and Ecospecifier Global.

On return from the Plant Expo, we learnt that our funding application to TRC was unsuccessful. We are still keen to hold a Building Biology workshop – so if you live within a 50km radius of Toowoomba and you would like to participate in a workshop, lodge your expression of interest with Joanne Galea at <http://www.designsforcreation.com.au/> .

Also, due to the lack of response from secondary schools, we have abandoned the “Youth Engagement in Landcare” project at this time.

On a positive note, HOPE has been invited to:

- co-host with Places You Love (PYL) Alliance, an evening workshop on Nature Laws, sometime in April; and
- attend the 2016 Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) on Sunday 5 June

2nd Landcare Project



Part 1 of this Landcare project consisted of 2 workshops (20 February and 5 March) where our consultant Steve Cupitt of Crossroads Rural & Environment, explained the benefits of removing pest plants and animals; and creating habitat for native wildlife; and registering interested participants for property assessments.

Part 2 of the project involves Steve undertaking these property assessments on each registered site.

Ipswich Plant Expo, 12-13 March 2016

At the start of the 2 day Expo, we were set up and ready to go!

A team of 11 HOPE members helped with transport, setting up, staffing, selling raffle tickets and packing up.

A big thanks to Ruth O’Dowd the event organiser for giving HOPE the free sites for information display and demonstration activities and the raffle concession.

Thanks also to all the Expo exhibitors and HOPE contacts who donated items for the raffle.

There were 34 prize hampers in all.



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