

Office News Report --- September 2015

Hello folks,

Wow! Where has the time gone! The past month has been extremely busy with both office work and organising events.

Our information display at U3A Toowoomba's Seniors Expo on 19 August was a resounding success – with lots of solid enquiries and 70% of the literature taken by enthusiastic event visitors.

Windows 10 software was installed on 21 August. Apart from a minor hiccup on 27 August, the system is running okay.

HOPE's contribution to September's national Sustainable House Day event included inspections at 2 facilities in the morning and an afternoon community forum on Saturday 5 September.

Considering the amount of effort put into organising both aspects of this event, attendance at the open facilities were low and 19 people on hand at the afternoon community forum.

Many thanks to Hugh & Kay Krenske for opening up their house and gardens at 210 West St, Toowoomba; and to Excel Solar for showing visitors around their Solar Farm at 24-25 Croft Crescent, Toowoomba. Thanks also to our speakers at the community forum – Ms. Joanne Galea from the Building Designers Association of Queensland (BDAQ), Mr Terry Davis from Excel Solar and Mr Jerry Coleby-Williams from Gardening Australia.

We submitted funding applications to:

- Ergon Energy for \$5,000 to host a series of Energy Efficient Workshops in the Toowoomba region; and
- Condamine Alliance for funding “to encourage landholders to improve the native vegetation structure and habitat value of their blocks for small mammals and small birds through improved management.”

We sent out some 250 sponsorship request letters; completed a survey and interview on our involvement in the Australian Climate Change Movement; and researched possible community grant programs.

If you would like HOPE to support an existing national, Queensland or Toowoomba project or you wish to propose something new for us to undertake, please email your suggestion(s) to office@hopeaustralia.org.au at your earliest convenience.

Volunteers are required to assist with updating our administrative policies and cataloguing our library resources. So, if you have some spare time and talents to offer, please contact the HOPE office on 07 4639 2135 to volunteer your services.

Our quarterly Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday 12 September welcomed several new members and supporters – bringing our national membership tally to 634 full and associate members.

The meeting adopted the Business Plan as drafted by Joseph Mula; and accepted the invitation to participate at the 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo being held at the Bundamba Turf Club on 12-13 March 2016. HOPE has been offered 3 free sites for our information display and demonstration activities – as well as the raffle concession at the expo.

Regular planning meetings for the 2nd Toowoomba Youth Leading the World (YLtW) Congress and Community Forum culminated in a successful event held on 14-16 September 2015.

20 secondary students from 4 local high schools developed Action Plans to:

- develop strategies to improve energy efficiency at Toowoomba Anglican College and Preparatory School
- introduce composting at Centenary Heights SHS
- promote litter reduction at St Saviour's College
- start an Environment Committee at Harristown SHS. We wish the students every success with their projects.

Lastly, we wish Charmaine, our newsletter editor, all the best as she starts maternity leave.

Regards,

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