

## Office News Report --- April 2016

Good morning folks,

*In reviewing the past month's activities, it's hard to say if the positives have outweighed the negatives.*

*Certainly I have been buoyed by the support and input of the management committee and admin volunteers, but we have lost all of our media team for different reasons. So, if you have some spare time and good writing skills, why not volunteer to help us prepare information articles, media releases, project announcements and event notices, etc.*

*HOPE received a donation of tables and chairs from Bunnings Warehouse (Toowoomba), but we were unsuccessful in our grant application to GCBF (Gambling Community Benefit Fund) for new and/or replacement computers, office furniture and equipment.*

*The management committee agreed to purchase 2 gazebos, a compost tumbler and a dozen volunteer polo shirts. All of these items were used at the Ipswich Plant Expo (IPE) held on 12-13 March. A full report of IPE2016 is available further on in this report.*

*Planning is underway for 2 Toowoomba community events:*

- 26 Apr -- Nature Laws workshop facilitated by Glen Klatovsky, Places You Love Alliance (tbc)
- Late May or early June – Earth Laws/Earth jurisprudence by Dr Michelle Maloney, National Convenor - Australian Earth Laws Alliance

*HOPE has also signed up to attend the Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) being held at Griffith University Logan Campus on Sunday 5 June.*

***Lastly, a social get-together for HOPE members and friends has been organised for Saturday 30 April, from 3pm onwards at the HOPE office (which is also the home of Frank and Mary Ondrus), 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.***

***\*\*\* Hot & cold drinks available \*\*\* Please bring a plate of sandwiches or savories to share \*\*\* BYO alcohol! \*\*\* RSVP by Thursday 28 April to Frank by ph 4639 2135; email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)***

*Frank Ondrus, President & acting Office Manager, ph 07 4639 2135; email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)*

### **Positions Vacant – Media Officers**

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc. (HOPE) requires the services of several volunteers to assist with our media activities. The media officers will be responsible for drafting media releases, advertorials, project announcements; event notices; and articles for our e:news bulletin and other publications.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on phone (07) 4639 2135.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.

### **Partnerships – Businesses**

HOPE would like to introduce you to our Business Partners. Green Harvest has supplied us with their organics catalogues for over fifteen years. Excel Power/Excel Solar have provided us with technical information and free presentations on Going Solar. Our latest partner, Ecospecifier Global is providing access to their database.

Please take advantage of the goods and services these businesses have to offer.

Green Harvest - <http://www.greenharvest.com.au/>

Excel Solar - <http://excelsolar.com.au/>

Ecospecifier Global - <http://www.ecospecifier.com/>

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## Report on Ipswich Plant Expo, 12-13 March 2016



HOPE was given 3 free sites for our information display and demonstration activities at the 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo (IPE). Also, we were granted the raffle concession for the event.

Despite the hot and humid conditions on Saturday, we received a great deal of interest from the public in the literature available and the worm farming, container gardening, compost tumbler and chook tractor displays.

Weatherwise, Sunday for disappointing due to frequent and heavy rain showers. This kept the crowd away!

Overall, there were about 3,000 visitors to the weekend expo – a lot less than was expected! Consequently, there were fewer-than-expected raffle tickets sold. 34 prize packs were assembled and well received by the happy winners.

A **BIG** thanks to everyone who made our attendance at the Ipswich Plant Expo possible – especially:

- Ruth O'Dowd, Ipswich Plant Expo event organiser
- Jerry Coleby-Williams, special guest speaker at the expo (and our group's Patron)
- Suppliers of literature – notably Green Harvest Organic Gardening Supplies
- Toowoomba State and Federal politicians for providing free photocopying
- Donors of give-away items and raffle prizes – Seasol, Eden Seeds, Bunnings Warehouse (Toowoomba), Yates, Pana Chocolate, Sirromet Wines, RB Sellars, The Diggers Club, Nature's Child, Savi Organics Australia, Barry Miller, Gardening Australia and event exhibitors
- HOPE volunteers – Frank & Mary Ondrus, Kerry Kruger, Joy van der Wyk, Wayne Ole, Terry Ryan, Ian Simons, Steve Cupitt, Charmaine Turnbull, Dan Cannan and Guy & Oksana Muller.

In summary, our planning for the event was okay. But the physical effort to have personnel on site for 2 days was demanding and exhausting.

Had the weather been more favourable on both days, I'm sure the crowds would have been larger and the outcome for us, financially, would have been more rewarding.

Thanks again to Ruth O'Dowd for the opportunity to participate in the Ipswich Plant Expo. Much appreciated.

