

Office News Report --- July 2016

Good afternoon,

Another busy, but not always successful, month for us at the office.

Certainly, the completion of our 2nd local Landcare project and the receipt of \$1,056 grant monies from the federal Department of Communities to purchase 30 volunteer polo shirts were the main highlights of the month.

On the down side, all of our preparation work to attend the Logan Eco Action Festival on 5 June came to nought as the event was cancelled due to very wet weather.

Then, the Ordinary Meeting of 11 June had to be rescheduled as the bulk of the committee and admin support volunteers were either out of town, sick or had family commitments. The follow up meeting on 15 June was attended by the executive committee.

Our grant application for new and replacement computers and software; and office furniture was unsuccessful. Computer problems with MS Outlook 2010 and modem necessitated the purchase of MS Office 2016 and a new modem – as well the reconfiguration of our communications with Telstra Bigpond and our website provider 1300WebPro.

General office news includes:

- Welcoming 2 new admin volunteers – Anjan Kumer Dev Roy and Steve Gribble
- Invitation to provide an information display at the Toowoomba Camelia Show and Garden Expo (16-17 July)
- Thinning out of old library resources
- Issuing an e: appeal for office stationery, postage stamps, etc.
- Request from Friends of the Escarpment Parks to support 3 projects
- Request from Friends of Felton to oppose Newmont mining development lease
- Grant opportunities – submit fresh application to GCBF (Gambling Community Benefit Fund) for computer and office equipment and furniture; and explore potential projects for Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) Environment Grants Program and Australian Ethical Investments.

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HOPE's Pledge facility - <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.

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our high levels of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some of your time and talents to help share the workload! Current vacancies include Newsletter Editor and Media Officers.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

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 email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

HOPE Reference Library

HOPE has a good collection of library reference material – both hard-copy (books, magazines, reports, DVDs) and electronic reports and newsletters. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, energy, Govt, landcare/NRM, MDB, mining, pest plants and animals, sustainable housing, waste and water. Hard-copy material is available from office; and electronic material is available by email. If you are chasing something specific, why not give us a call on (07) 4639 2135 or send an email request to office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Donations of resources always welcome. Please contact the HOPE Office, PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens, Toowoomba QLD 4350 or 22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba.