

Office News Report --- December 2016

Good morning folks,

The past few weeks have seen the holding of our 2016 Annual General Meeting (12 Nov), the first meeting of the new committee for 2016-2017 (again on 12 Nov) and a Christmas dinner and social at the Toowoomba City Golf Club (5 Dec).

The office has submitted funding applications to:

- 2016 Volunteer Grants program (federal government) for a "governance" training workshop; and
 - PCYC Qld for a "Volunteering for the Environment" event during 2017 National Youth Week.
- We are also investigating funding options to stage a series of Going Solar information sessions during 2017.

Please note that the HOPE office will be closed from Friday, 23 December 2016 and will reopen on Monday, 9 January 2017.

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

HOPE President's Report for 2015-2016

On balance, 2015-2016 was another successful year for HOPE – with the positive contribution of members, volunteers and supporters helping us to achieve most of our undertakings.

2015-2016 at times was quite frustrating – particularly due to unsuccessful grant applications and the departure of some admin support staff and volunteers. Overall though, we can be pleased with our performance.

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Management Committee and Admin Support Staff for their hard work throughout the year – especially Steve Cupitt, our Vice-President, who managed 2 landcare projects for us; Kerry Kruger for undertaking both roles of secretary and treasurer; and Dan Cannan for taking on the role of Website Administrator.

We also welcomed Dr Anjan Kumer Dev Roy who has provided expert comment on a number of federal and state government discussion papers; Pelin Beklenoglu who is our delegate to the Queensland Wildlife Advisory Committee; and Sue Higgins who has assisted with special admin projects.

Secondly, to our 650+ members and friends, envNGOs, government agencies and businesses who shared their expertise and resources with us. A special thanks to local state and federal politicians who provided free photocopying throughout the year. Much appreciated.

On the financial side, we received a \$5,000 private donation; a federal government grant of \$1,056 to purchase 30 HOPE monogrammed polo shirts; and a donation of 4 tables and 6 chairs from Bunnings Warehouse (Toowoomba).

Major capital items purchased were a compost tumbler (for demonstration purposes) and 2 gazeboes.

The office undertook an extensive Corporate Sponsorship campaign to seek funds to help defray operating expenses. To date, we have received lots of in-kind support, but no actual \$\$\$!

In September 2016, it was agreed to initiate a 'crowd funding' campaign with OzCrowd. It's early days, but we hope that this exercise will prove to be financially rewarding.

HOPE provided information and/or demonstration activities to the Ipswich Plant Expo (March), Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival and U3A Toowoomba Seniors Expo (both in August). Funds raised at these events covered the costs of attending.

As part of our outreach activities, HOPE initiated 2 community appeals – gardening tools and equipment for St. Vincent de Paul, Warwick; and books and magazines for the prison library at Southern Queensland Correctional Centre (SQCC), Gatton. Both appeals were well supported and recipients were grateful for items received.

In closing, I wish to thank the out-going committee for their efforts and wish the in-coming committee all the best.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc., Friday, 11 November 2016

Office Bearers for 2016-2017 Executive Committee members, etc.

- President - Frank Ondrus
- Vice-President - Steve Cupitt
- Secretary - Sue Higgins
- Treasurer - Sue Higgins

- Ordinary members who fulfil administration support roles as:
 - Office Manager - Frank Ondrus with support from Sue Higgins
 - Website Administrator - Dan Cannan
 - Membership Officer - Barry Miller
 - Social Media Administrator - Charmaine Turnbull

And, our Patron for 2016-2017 is Jerry Coleby-Williams (from ABC's Gardening Australia program).
