

## Office News Report --- January 2017

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### A Busy Year Ahead for HOPE and our Environment

2017 promises to be a HUGE year for Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. with activities planned at the national, Queensland and Toowoomba level.

Nationally, HOPE will be implementing a new marketing strategy to lift our profile and increase our membership.

"We will also be looking to expand our range of alliance/partnership colleagues (<http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/about-us/partnershipsalliances-ngos/>)" said Mr Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE.

National campaigns being supported by HOPE include "Protect the (Environment) Laws that Protect the Places You Love Alliance (<http://www.placesyoulove.org/>) and GM-Free Australia Alliance - <http://www.gmfreeaustralia.org.au/gm-freeze> .

With HOPE's headquarters located in Toowoomba, Queensland, we will be working closely with our many state-wide and local colleagues to support and promote their projects, campaigns and events – as well as heavily promoting our own undertakings.

"Certainly, promoting "Volunteering for the Environment – with the sub-theme of "Youth Engagement in Landcare" is high on our agenda", said Mr. Ondrus.

Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) <http://www.queenslandconservation.org.au/> campaigns being supported this year include Nature Protection and Climate Change.

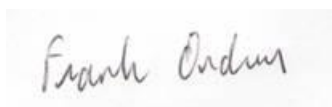
HOPE will also be promoting Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) <http://qwalc.org.au/> Green Nomad program <http://www.greennomads.com.au/> .

In Toowoomba, we are busily putting the finishing touches to:

- A series of Community Forums (to be held in February, April, June, August and October)
- Acknowledging the contribution that Darling Downs Women have made to the Environment (as part of Qld Women's Week), 11 March 2017
- Nature Journaling workshops (as part of National Youth Week), 8 April 2017

We are also investigating funding options to undertake 4 (local) landcare projects; a series of *Going Solar* information sessions; governance and administration training for community groups management committees and admin support staff; and several workshops.

For more information on HOPE, visit our website at [www.hopeaustralia.org.au](http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au) .



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

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### 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 time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include Facebook Administrator, Media Officer and Membership Officer.

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au) or phone (07) 4639 2135.

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## HOPE's schedule of meetings, events and projects

The HOPE management team invites you to its Toowoomba schedule of committee meetings, community forums, special projects and other activities as listed below.

### Members Meetings schedule:

11 Feb Ordinary meeting  
10 June Ordinary Meeting  
9 Sept Ordinary Meeting  
11 Nov AGM for 2016-2017  
11 Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary meeting for 2017-2018

→ All committee meetings are held at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba

### Community Forum program

This year's community forum program will be held at the new Toowoomba City Library, cnr of Herries and Victoria Sts, Toowoomba.

DATE	START TIME	END TIME	THEME	SPEAKER(S)
18 Feb	1pm	4pm	1) An Introduction to Organic Gardening 2) Organic Pest Control - Non-toxic preparations for insect & disease control 3) Healthy soils, healthy plants ... it's that simple!	1) Mike Wells, TAFE Horticulture 2) Peter Macqueen, TAFE Horticulture 3) Colin Johnson, Earthlife Pty Ltd
22 Apr	ditto	ditto	The Value of Heritage to Queensland (and the Darling Downs)	Qld Heritage Council, Stephanie Keays and Gail Lipke
17 June	ditto	ditto	Going Solar – On/Off Grid with Battery Storage	Terry Davis & Michael Reiken, Excel Solar
19 Aug	ditto	ditto	An Overview of Condamine Alliance (NRM / Landcare) - beginnings, current achievements and future plans	Various staff
21 Oct	ditto	ditto	An afternoon with Jerry Coleby-Williams	Jerry Coleby-Williams, ABC Gardening Australia TV presenter and Patron of HOPE

### Special Projects

11 Mar Qld Women's Week – Launch of booklet "acknowledging the contribution of Women on protecting our local environment"  
8 Apr National Youth Week – Youth Engagement in Landcare – an Open Day at Redwood Park featuring information displays; short guided walks and talks; and 2 Nature Journaling workshops.

### Attendance at local community events

20 Aug Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival  
23 Aug U3A Seniors Expo

### Your financial support sought- <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.

## 2017 National/International Events Calendar

- [2017 – International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#)
- [2014-2024 – International Decade of Sustainable Energy for All](#)

### January

- [World Future Energy Summit](#) - 16th -19th
- [Australia Day](#) - 26<sup>th</sup>

### February

- [World Wetlands Day](#) - 2nd
- [International Day of Women & Girls in Science](#) - 11th
- [Business Clean Up Day](#) - 28<sup>th</sup>

### March

- [World Wildlife Day](#) - 3rd
- [Schools Clean Up Day](#) - 3rd
- [Clean Up Australia Day](#) - 5th
- [National Ground Water Awareness Week](#) - 5th to 11th
- [Green Cities Conference](#) - 6th to 8th
- [International Day of Forests](#) - 21st
- [World Water Day](#) - 22nd
- [World Meteorological Day](#) - 23rd
- [Earth Hour](#) - 25<sup>th</sup>

### April

- [World Heritage Day](#) - 18th
- [National Trust Heritage Festival](#) - 18th - 21st
- [Earth Day](#) - 22nd

### May

- [International Composting Awareness Week](#) - TBC
- [World Migratory Bird Day](#) - TBC
- [World Parks Week](#) - 1st to 7th
- [National Volunteer Week](#) - 8th to 14th
- [OZWater'17](#) - 16th - 18th
- [International Day for Biological Diversity](#) - 22nd
- [World Turtle Day](#) - 23rd

### June

- [World Environment Day](#) - 5th
- [World Oceans Day](#) - 8th
- [Global Wind Day](#) - 15th
- [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#) - 17th

### July

- [World Population Day](#) - 11th
- [Schools Tree Day](#) - 28th
- [National Tree Day](#) - 30<sup>th</sup>

### August

- [International Day for World Indigenous Peoples](#) - 9th
- [National Science Week](#) - 12th to 20th
- [World Humanitarian Day](#) - 19th
- [Keep Australia Beautiful Week](#) - 21st to 27<sup>th</sup>

### September

- [National Biodiversity Month](#)
- [National Wattle Day](#) - 1st
- [Sea Week](#) - 4th to 10th
- [National Landcare Week](#) - 5th to 11th
- [National Threatened Species Day](#) - 7th
- [National Bilby Day](#) - 10th
- [Sustainable House Day](#) - 11th
- [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#) - 16th
- [Bushcare's Major Day Out – BMDO](#) - 17th
- [World Car-Free Day](#) - 22nd
- [World Maritime Day](#) - 29<sup>th</sup>

### October

- [World Habitat Day](#) - 2nd
- [World Space Week](#) - TBC
- [All Energy 2017 conference](#) - 11th to 12th
- [National Ride 2 Work Day](#) - 12th
- [International Day for Disaster Reduction](#) - 13th
- [World Food Day](#) - 16th
- [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) - 17th
- [Bird Week](#) - 23rd to 29th
- [Aussie Backyard Bird Count](#) - 23rd to 29th
- [National Water Week](#) - TBC
- [United Nations Day](#) - 24th
- [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#) - 27<sup>th</sup>

### November

- [World Tsunami Awareness Day](#) - 5th
- [Pollinator Week](#) - 12th to 19th
- [National Recycling Week](#) - 13th to 19th
- [National Walk to Work Day](#) - TBC
- [World Fisheries Day](#) - 21<sup>st</sup>

### December

- [International Volunteer Day](#) - 5th
- [World Soil Day](#) - 5th
- [International Mountain Day](#) - 11th