



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Report 1d on Ipswich Plant Expo, 12-13 March 2016

(Last updated – 4 April 2016)

In August 2015, our Patron Jerry Coleby-Williams advised us that he had nominated HOPE for the raffle concession at the 2016 Ipswich Plant Expo. The event organizer, Ruth O'Dowd, accepted Jerry's suggestion, and has also offered HOPE free sites for an environmental information display and demonstration activities area.

With an expected attendance of some 6,000, the HOPE Management Committee agreed that it would be a great opportunity to promote the work of HOPE. And, so the planning began.

Major aspects of our preparations included:

- sourcing suitable literature and give-away items;
- organizing the demonstration activities which included a worm farm, container gardening, chook tractor and compost tumbler;
- designing and printing of raffle tickets by our Kerry Kruger, our secretary;
- procuring some raffle prizes – as Plant Expo stallholders would be donating goods towards the raffle;
- requesting and receiving a donation of tables and chairs from Bunnings Warehouse Toowoomba; and
- purchasing 2 new gazebo tents, a compost tumbler and 12 polo shirts for our volunteers.



The Ipswich Plant Expo was held on 12-13 March 2016 at the Bundamba Race-track.

Saturday 12th March was extremely hot and humid making the setup of the display/demonstration area and the raffle tent very uncomfortable for us. However, we did have a steady stream of people visiting both sites.

Lots of literature was taken and we received a good

level of enquiry about HOPE in general. Not surprisingly, the chooks were a popular attraction for the kids!

Sunday 13th March was a write-off due to heavy showers on and off from mid-morning. Unfortunately, a lot of literature was water damaged by the rain run-off through our site.



Overall, there were 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 and Gardening Australia
- 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Frank Ondrus'.

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

Additional photos

