



Think Globally. Act Locally!

## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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## Minutes of Planning Meeting – Saturday, 13 January 2018

Meeting commenced 10.05am.

Present: Frank Ondrus, Steve Cupitt, Miriam Sharp and Heather McIntosh

Apologies: Charmaine Turnbull and Michael Weekes

### Admin requirements:

- Additional paperwork required by Federal Dept of Environment re: our application to be listed on Register of Environmental Organisations
- In the meantime, we should refresh our (Corporate) Sponsorship request letter and application form – as well as start recompiling lists of potential national, Queensland and local sponsors
- Volunteer recruitment via Volunteering Queensland, national websites and USQ going well with 6 interviews conducted and assignments issued
- Update “Low Carbon Living starts at home” guide – seek funding
- Lift our profile nationally – membership drive, update website Home page and review Facebook settings
- Possible support will be offered by CQ University’s Digital Media course students with media exposure

### Highlights:

- Schedule of Ordinary Meetings (confirmed)
  - Arrange guest speakers – 10-15minute talks
    - 10 Feb – MaryLou Gittens: Overview of CCMA & her role QWaLC’s director for Condamine Region
- Arrange a program of Community Forums – date, time & venue to be determined by speakers’ availability & preference. Instead of a Saturday we should look at a Tuesday or Wednesday night to attract more interest.
  - Potential topics include:
    - Animal Welfare – see RSPCA & Wildlife Carer groups
    - Conservation in Africa – Bruce Lawrie
    - Introduction to Native Beekeeping – Southern Beekeepers Assn (possibly in conjunction with one of their regular meetings)
    - Soil Health – Earthlife
    - Going Solar – On-Off Grid with Battery Storage – ACDC Energy
    - Sustainable Development Goals – UNAA Qld & others
    - Using drones to survey landscapes – Steve Cupitt
- Provide information displays for key events such as:
  - Logan Eco Action Festival (late May) – well attended
  - U3A Toowoomba “Seniors Expo” (mid-August) – always well received
  - PCYC Markets (Sunday morning) – arrange several smallish displays throughout the year. Would require more active volunteers.
  - Maybe at things like school fetes? Needs further investigation re dates, whether schools would be receptive, contact with student environment bodies

- Potential “Environmental Observance” dates to either endorse, support, promote and/or participate in:
  - Clean Up Australia Day – perhaps in partnership with Muslim community as requested through Council’s Multicultural Officer. Marketing opportunity: choose a high-traffic, high exposure site. Ensure all HOPE participants wear their HOPE shirts to make us stand out and we promote ourselves
  - World Environment Day – see LEAF 2018
  - 15 Sept – World Cleanup Day
  - National Recycling Week – see Planet Ark & RecyclingNearYou websites
  
- Special events – some may require funding
  - Nature Journaling workshops – promote to schools & community groups in Toowoomba region
  - Earth Ethics conference in partnership with USQ and others (see 2017 Brisbane program)
  - Landcare based projects – as identified by Steve Cupitt
    - Creating Wildlife Friendly Backyards. Steve noted that he would like to look at slightly larger properties (say 10 acres) to have a walk around, which is a little more interesting for most people.
    - Revisit some earlier proposals that might suit funding from Condamine Alliance.
  
- Submissions required for the following Govt reports
  - Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2018-2030 (required by 16 Mar 2018)
  - Zero-Net Emissions: What does it mean for Queensland?
  - Proposed ‘End of Waste’ code (Qld Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011)

**Potential:**

- Support UNEP & its programs – esp. Sustainable Development Goals
- Support & promote UNAA Qld
- Set up a course for U3A – 8week course. Each topic/week could be delivered by someone from HOPE. Suggestions for topics include square foot gardening, using less resources around the home, composting, etc
- Discussion was had around being more inclusive. Events, etc. can also be brought to the attention of other groups, e.g. migrants. Maybe look at inviting aboriginal (youth) groups for co-op on activities, e.g. having a ‘bush food’ day.

Meeting closed 11.15am.