

HOPE President's Report #6.4 for 2017-2018

(Last amended – 7 November 2018)

Looking back over the year, it would be easy to pinpoint the negative aspects first - but, looking chronologically, we can be pleased with our efforts, even though not everything was successful!

The 2017-2018 started well enough with a full committee and admin support team and lots of suggestions for a series of monthly public meetings; several good landcare project proposals; on-going commitment to support and promote as many 'international' Environmental Observance Events as we could; and, of course, on-going support of envNGO Alliance/Partners program – especially Places You Love (PYL) Alliance and APEEL recommendations.

November 2017

10/11 Received \$2,000 donation from F. Ondrus

11/11 Submitted application to Federal Government for "Listing on the Register of Environmental Organisations" which would afford us Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status. Thus, allowing us to launch major fund-raising campaigns; seek corporate sponsorship; and access a broader range of grants.

→ *Further amendments to our Constitution required by Office of REO before our application would be accepted. Thanks to Miriam Sharp for sorting out the 'tax' clauses and other matters and re-submitting the application (16/06).*

→ *We're still waiting the Minister's approval of our application.*

20/11-7/12 3 weeks holiday visiting Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo (NSW); celebrating my mum's 90th birthday in Shepparton (Vic); returning via Young (NSW) for their annual Cherry Harvest Festival; then onto Tamworth (NSW) to visit other family members.

December 2017

11/12 End of Year social at City Golf Club with 15 people in attendance. Lots of good food, conversation and laughter.

11/12 Frank awarded inaugural "Unsung Hero for Sustainable Development Goal themes in 2017" by the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) Queensland branch.

January 2018

13/01 Planning Meeting to discuss campaigns, projects, events for 2018

Also, along the way Andrew Nicholson developed:

- A workshop on 'sustainability education principles' for a group of child day-care providers (17/03);
- An 8week U3A course on "What is Sustainable Development"; and
- A "PhotoVoice" project for Year 9 students at Downlands College

→ *Our U3A course offering for Term 2 did not proceed due to a lack of participants.*

Volunteer recruitment started off well – although it soon proved to be a "revolving door" situation with only a few staying the distance. A big thanks to all who contributed articles for our newsletters and media releases. I'd especially like to acknowledge Judy Tan for preparing all of the newsletter articles for the Alliance/Partnership special edition in September.

Submissions:

HOPE responded to 5 government submissions between January and February. Details of these submissions are noted in the Quarterly Report (of 16 June 2018).

February 2018

10/02 Ordinary Meeting with guest speaker MaryLou Gittens from Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA)

Grant applications:

HOPE prepared 3 project overviews and in total, submitted 7 grant applications between February and October

- ➔ *To date, applications for funds to cover fuel cost, 2 landcare projects, Going Solar seminar program and a new computer were all unsuccessful.*
- ➔ *Thanks to Steve Cupitt for preparing the overviews and budgets for the 2 landcare projects; and to Miriam Sharp for submitting the grant applications online.*

March 2018

01/03 Community Forum: Important Honey Flora –8 people in attendance

24/03 Special meeting to ratify latest Constitutional changes as requested by Office of REO

The pressures of life and administering HOPE got the better of me and I started having bouts of depression. My doctor prescribed a course of medication which has kept me 'stable', but my 'energy levels' have reduced, my concentration wavers and I'm taking afternoon naps more often than not.

- ➔ *This has meant that my strategic oversight of HOPE has been somewhat lacking from time to time. For instance, I hadn't noticed that Dan Cannan, our Website Administrator had been offline since April-May.*

May 2018

08/05 Community Forum: Birdlife Australia – "Act for Birds, Act for Nature"

17/05 Met with representatives of Glennie (secondary) school *Environment Club* to offer our support with advice and resources.

22/05 Community Forum: "How restoring soil balance can help restore our environment" – 2 attendees

27/05 Provided information display for Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2018 – raised \$325.10 in donations

June 2018

02-13/06 Problems with MS Office s/w; and Outlook comms connections, folders and address book.

- ➔ *Quite a frustrating and anxious time for me. Computer problems mostly resolved with the assistance of Computer Troubleshooters (\$198) and Colmac Computers (\$396)*
- ➔ *Last 18 months of maintenance to address book has to be re-done ... with approx. 100 entries 'lost in space!'*

16/06 Ordinary Meeting

16/06 Initial meeting of HOPE Public Fund Management Committee – Mr Derek Tuffield AOM and Dr Mark Copland and Ms Rhonda Munro

- ➔ *Submit meeting's minutes to Westpac bank and open HOPE Public Fund account*

July 2018

05/07 Nominated Miriam Sharp for "Treasurer of the Year" award with Our Community

- ➔ *Miriam received a certificate of recognition*

16/07 Received \$3,000 donation from F. Ondrus

August 2018

03/08 Preliminary discussions on Strategic Plan for HOPE

06/08 Audited accounts collected from Crosato Country Enterprises

15-17/08 Delivered "Photo Voice" presentation to 11 year 9 students at Downlands College as part of their *Personal Interest Project* activities.

22/08 Staffed information display at U3A Toowoomba's Seniors Expo. \$55 received in donations.

26/08 Nomination of Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE, for Qld Community Achievement Award

26/08 Special edition of newsletter on Alliance/Partnerships program

September 2018

Issued nationally 4 email media releases

08/09 Ordinary Meeting

25/09 Charmaine Turnbull taking leave from Social Media Administrator due to work redeployment

- 25/09 Newly formed Southern Queensland Natural Resource Management (NRM) Ltd calling for individual and group membership, as well as Board Directors
- 15/09 Issued nationally email media release – Australia’s current and future environmental laws are at risk. It’s time to Act!
- 17/09 Issued nationally email media release – World Parks Day, 20 Sept 2018
- 20/09 Issued nationally email media release – World Habitat Day, 1 October 2018
- 20/09 Received formal notification from ICANw (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) of our partnership acceptance.
- 27/09 Issued nationally email media release - UN Treaty banning nuclear weapons takes another rapid step towards becoming international law
- 29/09 Received news that Janet Mackenzie, founder of HOPE, passed on 18 Sept 2018 aged 71 years.

October 2018

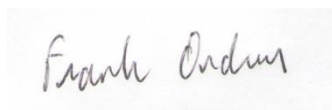
Issued nationally 5 media releases.

- 01/10 Issued nationally email media release: Vale - Janet Mackenzie, founder of Householders’ Options to Protect the Environment
- 08/10 Miriam submitted ‘Blue Card’ re-application for Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.
- 11/10 Dan Cannan stepping down as Website Administrator due to ill health.
- 16/10 Major “thinning out” of office and archive files
- 16/10 Issued email re National envNGO Petitions to Support
- 21/10 Issued nationally email media release promoting National Recycling Week, 12-18 Nov 2018
- 24/10 Issued meeting notices, etc. for AGM and 1st meeting of new committee for 2018-2019
- 27/10 Issued updated Agenda for 1st meeting of 2018-2019 committee and admin support team
- 27/10 Issued nationally email media release re HOPE National Membership Drive
- 29/10 Issued nationally email media release re: World Global Information System Day, 14 Nov 2018
- 31/10 Issued Queensland-wide email on Save our National parks from Ecotourism (NPAQ initiative)

Lastly, I wish to thank the Management Committee and Admin Support Staff for their dedicated work throughout the year; the many envNGOs, government agencies and businesses who shared their expertise and resources with us; and particular thanks to local State and Federal politicians who provided free photocopying throughout the year.

In closing, I wish the in-coming committee all the best for 2018-2019.

Regards,



Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

(Copies of my quarterly summary reports are enclosed for your reference.)