

2021-2022 – 2.1 - Office Manager's Quarterly Report for 12 Mar 2022 meeting

(Last updated – 6 Mar 2022)

Summary of key items from sub-headings below:

- The need to recruit replacement local committee members and volunteers in general
- 5 Newsletters produced;
- 5 Media Releases issued
- 6 Feature Articles circulated
- Grant to cover volunteer fuel cost received from Federal Government

Significant office highlights:

- (10/11/21 Miriam submitted 2020-2021 annual return to the Office of REO (Register of Environmental Organisations))
13/11/21 2020-2021 AGM; followed by 1st Ordinary Meeting for 2021-2022
→ Kerry Kruger (our secretary) and Miriam Sharp (our treasurer) have agreed to stay on until suitable local replacements can be found
- 15/11/21 Donated 2 sandwich boards, 1 project stand and several plastic document stands to Highfields Pioneer Village
18/11/21 Listened to webinar by APCO (Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation) re 2021 Collective Impact Summit
22/11/21 Subscribed to Philanthropy Australia's online Directory of Funders. Mary, my wife, has paid the \$110 annual subscription (as HOPE does not have a credit card).
Dec2021 Invited Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) to roadshow their "Collective Impact" initiatives to key agencies across the Toowoomba region
Dec 2021 Invited the Queensland Protect the Bush Alliance (PtBA) to provide a presentation here in Toowoomba
11/12/21 Issued nationally e: Survey on top 3-5 Environmental Issues of Concern
17/12/21 Office closed over Christmas – New Year period
31/12/21 Issued nationally report entitled "The UN Sustainable Development Goals - An Australian Handbook (Nov 2021)"
01/01/22 Issued nationally report entitled "Designing for the Future: Foreseeing climatic risk with model-based design" (Daniela Dal'Castel, Jan 2022)
01/01/22 Issued nationally Enews Bulletin 2022 #01.1 – January 2022
04/01/22 Radio interview – 103FM Warrnambool
07/01/22 Registered HOPE's drone with CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority)
13/01/22 Issued nationally HOPE's 'reformatted' 2022 Environmental Events Calendar
14/01/22 Submitted annual ACNC return for 2020-2021
22/01/22 Circulated critique on VQ's (Volunteering Queensland) latest report on "Volunteering in Queensland"
23/01/22 Circulated ICAN (International Campaign Against Nuclear (Weapons)) email on anniversary of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
23/01/22 Circulated DES (department of Environment and Science) item on call for independent Environmental Protection Agency for Queensland
09/02/22 Items for discussion at upcoming Ordinary Meeting (12 March 2022) includes Andrew Nicholson's work/efforts on eco-social work podcasts; deliberative democracy and citizen panels; climate emergency declaration; and donut economics – and, their inter-relationships; and Frank's liaison with APCO (Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation) re promoting of their Collective Impact initiative in South-West Queensland
29/01/22 Attended UNAA Qld ZOOM meeting
01/02/22 Issued nationally HOPE Enews Bulletin #02.1 – February 2022
04/02/22 Donated 3 cartons of 'weed' booklets to Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba
14-15/02/22 Attended WEBEX 'East Asia Summit Marine Plastic Debris Workshop'
19/02/22 Completed annual online QWaLC survey – which is a precursor to obtaining insurance coverage for 2022-2023
01/03 Attended 'Webex' meeting – "Launch of Plastics Innovation Hub, Indonesia"
02/03 Issued - Notice and Agenda for quarterly Ordinary Meeting, 12 March 2022
02/03 Attended "ZOOM" meeting on review of latest IPCC report - Part 1: Australasia impacts and projected risks

Feature articles:

- 15/11/21 Issued nationally Lili Greer's "Helpful Hints – Energy Efficiency at Home"
12/12/21 Issued nationally Feature Article entitled "Cause and effects of dealing with widespread pollution", by Lauren Dogan – HOPE researcher NSW
13/12/21 Issued nationally 2 Feature Articles written by Patricia Brana – Overviews of IUCN and UNEP
05/01/22 Issued nationally James Ahern's "Policy Suggestions for the Transition to a Sustainable Energy Future"

- 28/01/22 Circulated feature article on UN's Decades of Significance (overlapping with 2022)
11/02/22 Issued nationally Amandeep Kaur's review of "Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare" Report

Volunteer movement:

- 18/11/21 Welcome new research volunteers Jess Lyons (Toowoomba Qld) and Olivia Murphy (Dalwallinu, WA)
05/12/21 Welcome new volunteer researcher – Mamata Thapa, Qld
24/02/22 Welcome new volunteer researcher Lizeth Perez (NSW)
26/02/22 Volunteer resignation - researcher Rod Duncan

Media Releases:

- 01/12/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re: International Volunteers Day, 5 Dec 2021
28/12/21 Issued nationally Media Release re: A Greener New Year
14/01/22 Issued nationally media release: Wanted – Unused Postage Stamps and Unwanted Stamp Album Collections
31/01/22 Issued nationally Jason Dingley's media release promoting World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2022
18/02/22 Issued nationally media release re Clean Up Australia events 2022

Grant applications:

- 19/11/21 Submitted online funding application to Ergon Energy re Development and Printing of Waste Minimisation Brochure (jointly worked on by Frank Ondrus and Lance McKenzie)
→ 28/01/22 – Grant application unsuccessful! Will submit an application to Ian Potter Foundation
07/12/21 **Yahoo!!! Our grant application to the 2021 Volunteer Grants program was successful! We will shortly be receiving \$1,200 to cover volunteer fuel costs during 2022.**
02/01/22 Submitted online funding application to Queensland Community Foundation (QCF) re "How to Live Sustainably and Chemical-Free" booklet project

Submissions:

Account's activity:

- 15/11/21 Paid 2 accounts with Colmac Computers P/L
- Transfer of email hosting MS Office 365 – cheque no 200727 for \$440 with GST = \$40
 - Fix Instagram recognition issue – cheque no 200728 for \$40 with GST = \$3.64
- 18/11/21 Paid OFT Qld \$57.60 (cheque no. 200729) for Annual Return of Assn
23/11/21 Received notification from our auditor that they are changing their business name from DC Advisory Group to **Counted**
- 17/01/22 **Refunded \$388.90 (GST component) to GCBF (cheque no – 200731); and grant acquittal accepted 19 Jan 2022**
21/02/22 **Purchased 12 months insurance for our drone from DJI = \$259, using my wife's credit card. This amount will need to be reimbursed.**
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Office Updates compilation

26 Nov 2021

Thanks all who were able to participate in our AGM and 1st Ordinary Meeting of 2021-2022 on Saturday 13 November 2021. We have a full Management Committee and Admin Support Team going forward – although Kerry (our Secretary) and Miriam (our Treasurer) are only staying on in an interim capacity.

So, we'll need to quickly find local replacements to ensure smooth running of our committee and the organisation overall. Please consider 'stepping up' yourself to fill these positions and/or recommending a friend/colleague who could be persuaded to join us.

We have submitted a funding application to Ergon Energy for the development and publication of a Waste Minimisation brochure.

And, we're currently investigating funding options to develop and publish a "How to Live Sustainably and Chemical-Free" booklet.

Office highlights:

- 13/11/21 2020-2021 AGM; followed by 1st Ordinary Meeting for 2021-2022
15/11/21 Donated 2 sandwich boards, 1 project stand and several plastic document stands to Highfields Pioneer Village
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11 Dec 2021

With less than a week to go before the office closes on Friday 17 December, I wanted to remind all of you to promptly submit your assignments and/or to provide a status report on your respective tasks, so that I can summarise 'what will be carried forward into the New Year.

Great news! Our grant application to the 2021 Volunteer Grants program was successful! We will shortly be receiving \$1,200 to cover volunteer fuel costs during 2022.

Office highlights:

- Invited Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) to roadshow their "Collective Impact" initiatives to key agencies across the Toowoomba region
- Invited the Queensland Protect the Bush Alliance (PtBA) to provide a presentation here in Toowoomba
- 01/12/21 Issued nationally e: Media Release re: International Volunteers Day, 5 Dec 2021
- 05/12/21 Welcome new volunteer researcher – Mamata Thapa, Qld
- 07/12/21 Yahoo!!! Our grant application to the 2021 Volunteer Grants program was successful! We will shortly be receiving \$1,200 to cover volunteer fuel costs during 2022.

4 Jan 2022

Welcome to 2022!

My recovery from prostate surgery is going well – with little pain and discomfort; and I'm starting to take short walks to help with circulation.

As for HOPE matters, there's a short list of office highlights below – and, I'd like to thank our executive and admin support team for helping to maintain the work flow during the past few weeks.

Lastly, Gillian Blair from FM 103.7 - Warrnambool, Vic, has invited me to do a monthly ½ hour radio broadcast during 2022 ... with the first interview happening later this morning.

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- 01/01/22 Issued nationally Enews Bulletin 2022 #01.1 – January 2022
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21 Jan 2022

The office officially reopened on Monday 17 January – and, the volume of incoming emails has started to increase dramatically.

I'm currently reviewing potential projects (see attachment) and funding sources.

I welcome your feedback on the attached document and/or further project suggestions.

I'm also keen to hear from all of you in regards to ability to complete outstanding assignments.

Please let me know if you need more time or are no longer are to contribute.

Office highlights:

04/01/22 Radio interview – 103FM Warrnambool
05/01/22 Issued nationally James Ahern's "Policy Suggestions for the Transition to a Sustainable Energy Future"
07/01/22 Registered HOPE's drone with CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority)
07/01/22 Received \$1,200 fuel grant monies and will start allocating on submission of petrol receipts
13/01/22 Issued nationally HOPE's 'reformatted' 2022 Environmental Events Calendar
14/01/22 Issued nationally media release: Wanted – Unused Postage Stamps and Unwanted Stamp Album Collections
14/01/22 Submitted annual ACNC return for 2020-2021
17/01/22 Refunded \$388.90 (GST component) to GCBF (cheque no – 200731); and grant acquittal accepted 19 Jan 2022

28 Jan 2022

The office is in full swing again with incoming email activity quite high; a radio interview scheduled for 7 Feb; and my attendance at 3 upcoming meetings (all via ZOOM).

Thanks to everyone for your contributions over the past few weeks.

The postings to our 4 social media platforms have been high. Thanks to Regina, Charmaine and Keith.

We have received loads of articles for our newsletter. A special thanks to Lauren, Jason and Anna.

Thanks also to Stephanie for her efforts in maintaining the website and helping me with Membership file maintenance.

Office highlights:

22/01/22 Circulated critique on VQ's (Volunteering Queensland) latest report on "Volunteering in Queensland"
23/01/22 Circulated ICAN (International Campaign Against Nuclear (Weapons)) email on anniversary of Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
23/01/22 Circulated DES (department of Environment and Science) item on call for independent Environmental Protection Agency for Queensland
28/01/22 Circulated feature article on UN's Decades of Significance (overlapping with 2022)

9 Feb 2022

Recently, Andrew Nicholson and I have been reviewing issues that were not 'picked up' by Toowoomba's local government; and a couple of newer matters for consideration.

We are now exploring opportunities to engage with staff at University of Southern Queensland (USQ) to discuss the merits and benefits of promoting these 'matters' for Toowoomba and the region.

Wikipedia definitions of Andrew's 3 matters are:

- **Deliberative Democracy** or **discursive democracy** is a form of [democracy](#) in which [deliberation](#) is central to [decision-making](#). It adopts elements of both [consensus decision-making](#) and [majority rule](#). Deliberative democracy differs from traditional democratic [theory](#) in that authentic deliberation, not mere [voting](#), is the primary source of legitimacy for the [law](#). While deliberative democracy is generally seen as some form of an amalgam of [representative democracy](#) and [direct democracy](#), the actual relationship is usually open to dispute.^[1] Some practitioners and theorists use the term to encompass representative bodies whose members authentically and practically deliberate on legislation without unequal distributions of power, while others use the term exclusively to refer to decision-making directly by lay citizens, as in direct democracy. The term "deliberative democracy" was originally coined by Joseph M. Bessette in his 1980 work *Deliberative Democracy: The Majority Principle in Republican Government*.^[2]

and

- **Citizens' Reference Panel/Jury** is a non-compulsory public jury used in Canada to provide policy advice to public and elected officials. They are generally convened by the government or a public agency and typically meet several times over a period of weeks or months to learn about, discuss, and reach agreement on recommendations for how to address a contentious public issue. Citizens' Reference Panels will have anywhere from 24–54 citizens

members, with equal numbers of men and women, while matching the age profile and geographic distribution of the population in the region or jurisdiction they represent. Members of a Citizens' Reference Panel are randomly invited and selected during a [civic lottery](#) process. They are considered volunteers and with the exception of reimbursements for travel and childcare, they receive no financial compensation for their time. The idea being that the time each citizen volunteers to the panel is part of a public service, such as [jury duty](#). Much like a [Royal Commission](#), the recommendations of a Citizens' Reference Panel are non-binding though they do carry moral stature. Citizens' Reference Panels developed as an offshoot of the [Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform](#) in British Columbia in 2004 and in Ontario in 2006. There have been over 25 Citizens' Reference Panels in Canada.

- Climate Policies - **Climate Emergency** is being declared in Australia similarly to many other jurisdictions across the world (actions known as [Climate emergency declaration](#)). One such jurisdiction in Australia, [Darebin City Council](#), was the first one in the world to declare a climate emergency in 2016. This page lists all known climate emergency declarations within Australian jurisdictions across all three levels of government in Australia (Local, State, and Federal). There is currently no declaration of a climate emergency at the Federal level in Australia, although there have been multiple motions moved to declare one. In October 2019, the [Australian Labor Party](#) supported the [Australian Greens Party's](#) motion to declare a climate emergency. The motion was additionally supported by crossbenchers [Zali Steggall](#), [Helen Haines](#), and [Andrew Wilkie](#), as well as [Centre Alliance](#).^[1] However, the proposition failed with members of the Morrison Government and some crossbenchers voting against it.^[1] The Australian Capital Territory is the first and only territory to have declared a climate emergency. The South Australian Parliament voted for a climate emergency in the upper house in South Australia but this has not passed the lower house. In June 2019, Councilor Trent McCarthy of the City of [Darebin](#) brought together councilors and parliamentarians in Australia and around the world [online link-ups](#) to connect the work of climate emergency-declared councils and governments. Following these link-ups and [a successful motion at the National General Assembly of Local Government](#), McCarthy announced the formation of [Climate Emergency Australia](#), a new network of Australian governments and councils advocating for a climate emergency response. Local Government has been the most active level of government at declaring climate emergencies in Australia. Currently, every state in Australia has at least one local government jurisdiction that has declared a climate emergency. There are only two capital city local governments that have not declared a climate emergency, the City of Perth which has not yet voted on a climate emergency declaration, and the City of Brisbane which has voted against a climate emergency motion.^[4] Below is a list of local government jurisdictions that have declared a climate emergency, voted against a climate emergency or have not voted on a climate emergency. So far in Queensland, only the Shire of Noosa has signed up to the Climate Emergency Declaration.
- **The Doughnut, or Doughnut economics**, is a visual framework for [sustainable development](#) – shaped like a [doughnut](#) or [lifebelt](#) – combining the concept of [planetary boundaries](#) with the complementary concept of social boundaries.^[1] The name derives from the shape of the diagram, i.e. a disc with a hole in the middle. The centre hole of the model depicts the proportion of people that lack access to [life's essentials](#) ([healthcare](#), [education](#), [equity](#) and so on) while the crust represents the ecological ceilings ([planetary boundaries](#)) that life depends on and must not be [overshot](#).^[2] The diagram was developed by [University of Oxford](#) economist [Kate Raworth](#) in her 2012 [Oxfam](#) paper *A Safe and Just Space for Humanity* and elaborated upon in her 2017 book [Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-Century Economist](#). The framework was proposed to regard the performance of an [economy](#) by the extent to which the needs of people are met without overshooting Earth's ecological ceiling.^[3] The main goal of the new model is to re-frame economic problems and set new goals. In this model, an economy is considered [prosperous](#) when all twelve social foundations are met without overshooting any of the nine ecological ceilings. This situation is represented by the area between the two rings, considered by its creator as the safe and just space for humanity.

→ Reference material for the 3 matters above is available on request.

My current interest is the work of the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) – especially their Collective Impact initiative (see attachments).

I have asked Brendon Smyth of APCO if they would consider 'road-showing' the Collective Impact findings to Toowoomba Regional Council, Southern Downs Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council – individually or collectively. Due to covid-19 restrictions, APCO is unable to visit in the short-time, but is willing to keep the conversation going and to see what could be arranged via ZOOM meetings.

Accordingly, I am compiling list of potential interested parties to attend such a webinar.

Office highlights:

28/01/22 Funding application Ergon Energy was successful! I'll start looking around for another grant opportunity to develop our Waste Minimisation brochure.

29/01/22 Attended UNAA Qld ZOOM meeting

31/01/22 Issued nationally Jason Dingley's media release promoting World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2022
01/02/22 Issued nationally HOPE Enews Bulletin #02.1 – February 2022
02/02/22 Spoke with staff of APCO (Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation) via ZOOM meeting
04/02/22 Donated 3 cartons of 'weed' booklets to Friends of the Escarpment Parks (FEP) Toowoomba

21 Feb 2022

On a personal note, my urologist noted that my recent blood test showed a PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) reading of approx. zero!

Yahoooooo!! But I'll still have to have 3 monthly blood tests for 5 years to make sure that the PSA reading stays that low. DJI, the makers of our new drone, have approved our request for insurance – which has been paid by my wife Mary as she has a credit card and HOPE does not.

The 12 months insurance amount is \$259; and we'll need to reimburse Mary at the next available opportunity.

Lastly, our next quarterly Ordinary Meeting is on Saturday 12 March 2022.

It will be both a physical and ZOOM meeting – so, I'd appreciate some of the local members making an effort to attend this meeting and hear from Andrew Nicholson on a range of issues we are pursuing.

Office highlights:

11/02/22 Issued nationally Amandeep Kaur's review of "Building resilience in local communities: The wellbeing benefits of participating in Landcare" Report
14-15/02/22 Attended **WEBEX** 'East Asia Summit *Marine Plastic Debris* Workshop'
18/02/22 Issued nationally media release re Clean Up Australia events 2022
19/02/22 Completed annual online QWaLC survey – which is a precursor to obtaining insurance coverage for 2022-2023
21/02/22 Issued quick survey to HOPE members and supporters
21/02/22 Purchased 12 months insurance for our drone from DJI – \$259

4 Mar 2022

Wow! What crazy wet weather we have had along the east coast of Queensland and NSW.

We've had minor flooding in Toowoomba – no damage to our house, thankfully!

And, I know that some of you have experienced flooding of your properties.

I hope the damage is not too severe; and the clean up goes smoothly.

Just a final reminder that our next Ordinary Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 12 March.

The meeting will be both a physical and ZOOM meeting – so, I urge locals to attend in person and those out of town, interstate or overseas to join via ZOOM.

If you are able to attend in person, please RSVP quickly so that catering for morning tea can be arranged.

Office highlights:

24/02 Welcome new volunteer researcher Lizeth Perez (NSW)
26/02 Volunteer resignation - researcher Rod Duncan
26/02 Issue HOPE Enews Bulletin 2022 #03.1 --- March 2022
01/03 Welcome Olivia Ustariz who will be helping with media releases and social media posts
01/03 Attended 'Webex' meeting – "Launch of Plastics Innovation Hub, Indonesia"
02/03 Issued - Notice and Agenda for quarterly Ordinary Meeting, 12 March 2022
02/03 Attended "ZOOM" meeting on review of latest IPCC report - Part 1: Australasia impacts and projected risks