



Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

Thursday, 11th February 2021

OPEN LETTER to Secondary School students in Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) jurisdiction

Dear Principals,

Re: Re-imagined 2021 Youth Summit (a part of National Youth Week activities)

I write seeking your support for, and promotion of, our re-imagined virtual Youth Summit event being held over 4 afternoons from the 19th to 22nd April 2021.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc., in partnership with St. Ursula's College, will hold a series of 4 Zoom meetings, over consecutive days, to discuss issues of concern relating to the environment, social justice, animal welfare/conservation and heritage.

The 4 afternoon ZOOM meetings will be held on 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd April 2021, from 4pm to 5pm.

We ask that you inform your Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 students of the opportunity to participate in this FREE regional event and hear presentations from government, industry, academia and community group representatives. Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

Once the Youth Summit program of speakers is finalised, we will be asking students to submit their registration for one or more of the Youth Summit ZOOM meetings directly to HOPE at office@hopeaustralia.org.au. Students should include their name, year level and school.

In conjunction with the Youth Summit, HOPE is conducting a 'citizen's science' **PhotoVoice** project to elicit students' issues of concern regarding the aforementioned topics of environment, social justice, animal welfare/conservation and heritage.



Photovoice is a long-established method in community capacity building. As the name implies, the process uses self-generated images and captions to help participants have a 'voice' and articulate their interests and concerns around some problematic situation. For example, the community impacts of environmental pollution or uncontrolled climate change.

In this Youth Summit application of the Photovoice method, we want students to choose to either take a photo, create a short video or do a drawing/sketch of an environmental problem of concern to them; and then include a caption: that is, an extended title, sentence or short paragraph explaining the submitted image. This will give their submission a "voice" which can then be used along with other anticipated outcomes of the Summit. A more detailed instruction sheet on the Photovoice process accompanies this letter - and some possible environmental topics of interest are suggested in that document. Students, however, are free to choose their own environmental or sustainability topics outside of that list.

Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 students are invited to submit their entries - a scanned A4 size "photovoice" drawing or photo; or video file link, either to Google Drive, or to some other platform from which it can be downloaded - to Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) by 31st March 2021.

Each entry should contain student's name, year level and school.

We thank you for your support in disseminating information on this *virtual* Youth Summit event.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Frank Ondrus.

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