

## 2022-2023 – 5.2 – President’s Report for 11 Nov 2023

(Last updated – 3 Nov 2023)

Good morning,

Having at my disposal the weekly Office Updates which were then consolidated in quarterly reports, I was able to quickly compile information for this annual report – highlighting the significant achievements and the occasional lowlight.

But this time around, I would to focus on the work of the Management Committee and the Admin Support Team under the following headings:

- Office activities;
- Grants; and
- Projects

### Office activities

I’d like to thank the Management Committee and Admin Support Team for their efforts maintaining a good standard of delivery with our monthly newsletters; social media postings; media releases and feature articles; website maintenance; and general office duties.

Highlights include:

- 12 newsletters issued (Daniela Dal’Castel)
  - After several years as newsletter editor, Daniela is stepping down. I thank her for dedicated contribution.
  - Nina Stick (WA) has volunteered to take on the newsletter editor’s role
- 10 media releases issued (Jason Dingley); and 3 radio interviews given (Frank Ondrus)
- 6 feature articles issued (HOPE members and guests)
- 3 submissions made
- Social media (Charmaine Turnbull and Liam Carroll)
  - Facebook – 1131 | Twitter – 1366 | Instagram – 122 | LinkedIn - 216
- 5 HOPE meetings held throughout the year – 3 Ordinary Meetings, Strategic Planning meeting; and our AGM
- 09/07 Special meeting of HOPE Public Fund committee to add Mark Whitelegg to the committee as Dr Mark Copland has stepped down, due to his move to WA
- Attended 6 non-HOPE meetings (both physical & ZOOM)
- Provided 2 information displays: Amaroo EEC’s *Sustainability Showcase* event (18/03/23); and World Science Festival Queensland at the Cobb & Co Museum in Toowoomba (21-22/05/23)
- Website – Transfer of hosting and Domain name registration to Communications & Computer Support (CCS)  
→ this exercise is nearing completion
- Membership: Currently, we have 103 full members and 384 associate members (i.e., 487 in total).
- Volunteers: Currently, we have 16 active volunteers. This year we recruited 21 new volunteers, but then lost 20 volunteers (mostly from the newer recruits).

### Grants - received

- 2023 Qld Women’s Week project: *Acknowledging the contribution that Women of the Darling Downs have made and are making to Protecting and Conservation the Environment* (funding received from the Qld Govt’s Office for Women)
  - Thanks to Kerry Kruger for producing the ‘booklet of profiles’ and to Andrew Nicholson for producing the series of podcasts
- Nest Boxes project (funding received from Qld Govt’s Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF): The Toowoomba West Men’s Shed (TWMS) was engaged to build 150 nest boxes for birds and other tree-dwelling animals. 90 nest boxes have been built and distributed to local/regional landcare and related groups – as well as to several wildlife carers.

### Grants - pending

Online applications have been made to:

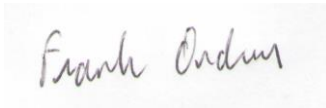
- Australian Communities Foundation (ACF) – reactivated application for 1 laptop
- Federal Government’s ‘Volunteer Grants’ program – Expression of Interest (EoI) for 2 laptops
- Queensland Community Foundation – upgrade of website

Projects – current

- Jan 2023 Conducted 2 drone flyovers - - Highfields Falls Park (Highfields) and Dingo Mountain Conservation Area (Crows Nest)
- 19/04/23 Weeds Forum: Some 50-60 people were present to listen to 6 speakers talk about “*Weeds: What are they? Where are they? And, how do we deal with them?*” Thanks to our sponsors the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) and SQ (Southern Queensland) Landscape.
- Commission from Biodynamic Agriculture Australia (BAA) Ltd: Due to the success of our Qld Women’s Week project, Louise Skidmore, Company Secretary of BBA Ltd, has commissioned us to produce a ‘booklet of profiles’ and a podcast series featuring 6 members of their organisation. Anna Kula is responsible for developing the booklet; and Andrew Nicholson is producing the podcast series.

I wish the incoming Management Committee and Admin Support Team all the best for 2023-2024.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Ondrus". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Frank Ondrus, President – HOPE Inc.

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