

HOPE News --- June 2018

Hello and welcome to another HOPE Office report.

The month of May was fairly busy with planning, preparations and execution of the Toowoomba leg of BirdLife Australia's "Act for Birds, Act for Nature" National Roadshow 'community forum' on 8 May; and our fairly large environmental information display at Logan Eco Action Festival on 27 May. (see reports below)

On the downside, 3 of our project funding applications were unsuccessful.

Our only planned activity for this month is our quarterly Ordinary Meeting being held on Saturday 16 June. A copy of the meeting's agenda will be emailed to you shortly.

Regards,

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc., ph 07 4639 2135, www.hopeaustralia.org.au

Report on community forum – “Act for Birds, Act for Nature” co-hosted by HOPE Inc. and BirdLife Australia, Tuesday, 8 May 2018

On Tuesday evening, 8 May 2018, 35 people gathered at Laurel Bank Park Hall, Toowoomba to hear BirdLife Australia's national 'roadshow' presentation on “Act for Birds, Act for Nature”, which is in response to the Federal Government's weak Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

BirdLife Australia <http://birdlife.org.au/> and other key member groups of the national Places You Love (PYL) Alliance <http://www.placesyoulove.org/> are recommending a raft of changes to improve the protection and conservation of our environment.

(Refer to previous editions of our newsletter for full articles on Places You Love Alliance and APEEL (Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law)).



Michael Atzeni from the Toowoomba Bird Observers spoke about club members recording fewer sightings in recent years, of a number of bird species including the critically endangered Swift Parrot.

Kim Garratt and Margaret Quixley, representing BirdLife Australia, addressed the gathering on EPBC Act and its short-comings; the reports generated by BirdLife Australia; and the actions taken (including this 'roadshow').

Discussions and interactions indicated that the evening's session was appreciated by all and the efforts of BirdLife Australia in preparing the 'roadshow' will be beneficial to all who participate in the presentations throughout the country.



(Margaret Quixley, BirdLife Australia)



(Margaret, Michael, Cam, Frank and Kim)

Our thanks to BirdLife Australia for coming to Toowoomba free-of-charge and for the work they did, in setting up registrations online before this event (there were 44 registrations; 19 of which did not attend; but walk-ins on the night brought the total of attended to 35.)

Toowoomba Bird Observers representative Michael did a great job in giving information on the activities of the group and the data they have acquired over some 20years. Thanks Michael.

Special thanks to Cam Mackenzie and Greg Spearritt of Amaroo Environmental Education Centre for providing IT equipment and support.

And, to the HOPE volunteers who helped with set-up and catering – thank you one and all. Your efforts helped to make the event run smoothly.

Report on Logan Eco Action Festival (LEAF) 2018

On Sunday morning, 27 May 2018 Frank, Miriam and Heather travelled to Griffith University – Logan Campus to staff a HOPE environmental information display at the LEAF event; and to raise some funds for the group.



The weather was fine, the crowd for HUGE, we were busy most of the day and we raised \$325.20.

A BIG thanks to Caitlin Row, Logan City Council, for inviting us to the event; and for organizing such a great event.

Thanks also to our environment colleagues who provided literature and

promotional items for our display.

Lastly, thanks to Miriam for providing the transport; and to both Miriam and Heather for their support and help on the day. Much appreciated.

Date Claimers

Plastic Free July challenge



Could you choose to refuse single-use plastic for the month of July? Plastic Free July is an award-winning campaign developed to encourage individuals, organisations, businesses and communities to reduce the single-use plastic they use in July. As well as the 31day Plastic Free July challenge (although if that sounds too hard, you can choose to accept the challenge for a week or even just a day), the campaign works to create conversations and provide education around the issues of plastic pollution and more importantly, promote the solutions.

Created by the Western Metropolitan Regional Council, the Plastic Free July challenge began in Cottesloe, Western Australia in 2011 with less than 40 participants. From its humble beginnings, the challenge has grown into a state-wide, national and now international campaign which in 2016 had over 100,000 West

Australians and more than 1 million people worldwide accepting the challenge. In 2017, we're expecting the challenge to reach even more people and create an even bigger positive impact.

Whether you choose to refuse a handful of items for a single day, choose to refuse all plastic for the entire month, or anything in between, the Plastic Free July challenge is all about taking positive action and being part of a movement creating lasting change. With our focus on solutions, it's easy to take the challenge into our local communities, schools and organisations. Organising a plastic-free morning tea with colleagues, gathering a group of friends to watch a documentary, or getting your local community group to do a beach clean are just some of the ways our participants are spreading the Plastic Free July message. Businesses are getting on board too, encouraging customers to bring reusable coffee cups for takeaways, saying no to plastic straws in restaurants and bars, and removing plastic bags from their stores.

If you'd like to do something in support of Plastic Free July but don't know where to start, the Plastic Free July website has a toolbox full of ideas to help you plan events. With downloadable logos and template posters, through to inspiring stories and detailed case studies, and ideas for the types of events you could host in your local community, you'll be supported all the way. You can also follow along on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) to see what others are getting up to.

For more information about Plastic Free July, to sign-up and to access the free resources, visit the website at www.plasticfreejuly.org.