

HOPE News --- July 2018

Good morning,

This office report reviews the previous month of June and looks forward to events and activities through to September.

First the bad news. In early June, we experienced problems with MS Office software which culminated in 2 weeks computer down time and the corruption of our e: address book. The cost of the repairs, coupled with some other unforeseen expenses, has left us financially drained!

Therefore, we are seeking your financial support to ensure our immediate future for the next 12 months or so. Donations may be made online at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>, else please contact me by phone 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au if you wish to donate by for other means.

On the bright side, the Management Committee is progressing well with our application to the Federal Department of Environment for listing on the "Register of Environmental Organisations". This listing will afford us "Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status and enable us to formally seek donations.

Mr Derek Tuffield OAM, CEO of Lifeline Darling Downs & South-West Qld and Dr Mark Copland, EO of Social Justice Commission, Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba and Ms Rhonda Munro of Rhonda's Bookkeeping have agreed to administer our Public Fund account.

Extra benefits of having DGR status are:

- the opportunity to seek corporate sponsorship; and
- access to a greater range of grants.

Once our application has been approved, we will initiate national donation and sponsorship campaigns to attract funding to cover our annual operating expenses and enable us to more effectively promote new projects, events and activities.

HOPE's Ordinary Meeting held on 16 June covered several key areas including:

- computer problems;
- finances;
- reports on recently held community forums;
- outcome of 5 project grant applications – all unsuccessful; and
- proposed projects (which includes some lapsed, unsuccessful and new proposals).

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting will shortly be available on our website at http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/home/hope-news/#ON_COM_1718.

Regards,

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

Volunteers needed

More active volunteers – both local and remote (i.e. online) – are required to help us maintain our level of activity. Volunteers are needed to help with projects, events and display activities, as well as general admin duties and media/publications work. We invite members and supporters to step up and volunteer some time and talents to help share the workload. Current vacancies include: Researchers; Media Officers; Publications Team members; and Newsletter Editor

Please contact the office on 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au to offer your assistance.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.
