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## HOPE E-news Bulletin #27 – AGM special edition, 8 November 2009

Hello!

Welcome to this special edition of the enews bulletin. We are about to celebrate HOPE's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. A great milestone for us. We are pleased that Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Cr. Peter Taylor is able to join us for the AGM/birthday party. It will be an opportunity for us to say thank you to him and all our supporters that have played a key role over the years.

After 21 years HOPE has a substantial membership base all over Australia. For those in our area, please come and join us as well to celebrate our achievements with a FREE sausage sizzle. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Miriam Sharp, Secretary - [office@hopeaustralia.org.au](mailto:office@hopeaustralia.org.au)

*"I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." William Shakespeare*

### Contents:

- Office news
  - AGM Notice
  - Fundraising notice - 2010 Diary
  - Patron
- Annual Reports
- 2010 and beyond
- 21 Year Report

### Office news

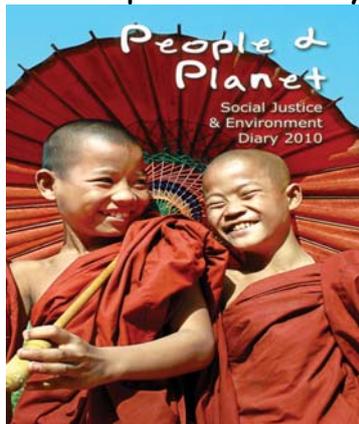
#### Date Claimer

#### Annual General Meeting and 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebrations

**Date:** Saturday 14 November  
**Venue:** Laurel Bank Park pergola (Herries St side), Toowoomba  
**Time:** 11.30am - AGM followed by lunch at 12.30pm  
**Event:** AGM and sausage sizzle lunch celebrating 21 years of HOPE  
**RSVP:** By Wednesday, 11 November for catering purposes  
**BYO:** Chairs, drinks & special dietary requirements

*PS. Help is needed with setting up. Offers of assistance can be directed to Miriam, ph 07 4659 5030 or Frank 07 4639 2135.*

## 2010 People & Planet Diary now available for sale



People & Planet: Social Justice & Environment Diary 2010 features 55 exceptional photos of people and places around the world, accompanied by short, fascinating stories about social and environmental issues. People & Planet is published by a partnership of 40 Australian social justice and environment organisations, and raises funds for the work of these organisations in promoting a just, sustainable

world. People & Planet is perfect for use as a daily diary, but also makes a great gift for Christmas. The diary is printed on a mix of recycled and plantation paper and spiral bound. Every second page features a striking and inspiring photo of people and places around the world, with each facing page covering one week from January to December 2010.

Each People & Planet Diary also includes:

- Australian holidays & UN international days & weeks printed throughout the diary
- Calendars for years 2009, 2010, & 2011
- State-by-state list of public holidays & school term dates
- Space for contacts and notes

The 2010 People & Planet Diary costs just \$19.95 plus \$2.75 for postage & handling.

## Patron

We are delighted to announce that Jerry Coleby-Williams (notably of Gardening Australia) has offered to be our Patron. The current committee has accepted Jerry's offer and we look forward to working with him in 2010.

## Annual Reports

### President's report

Looking back over the cycle of events from November 2008 to October 2009 - wow! What a fantastic year for HOPE.

The sale of the *2009 People & Planet* diaries went well and continues to be a valuable contribution to our fund-raising efforts.

Our funding application to promote the Queensland State Government's *Low Carbon Diet (LCD)* program was successful with the project to run from March 2009 to February 2010. Activities undertaken for the project include 50+ LCD information displays at shopping centres, libraries throughout the Toowoomba Regional Council area, University of Southern Queensland, community events and the Toowoomba Spring *Home & Lifestyle Expo*. The information sessions and workshops that were conducted were not well-patronised, so we opted to deliver presentations directly to key community organisations such as Toowoomba TAFE and Rotary. Expanding on the LCD idea, HOPE volunteered to manage Toowoomba's *Sustainable House Day* event and to conduct seminars on *Going Solar*.

We welcome the partnerships formed with:

- Neighbourhood Watch Toowoomba 32 to engage in Clean Up Australia activities;
- the Toowoomba World Environment Day Committee (TWEDC) to stage 2009's event at Lake Annand Park, Toowoomba; and

- Yarramine Environmental and Excel Solar to deliver the Solar Neighbourhood Project on the Darling Downs.

All of this work has been achieved through the tremendous efforts of HOPE members and supporters, sponsors and consultants.

I especially thank Miriam Sharp for her work on the e:news bulletins and her work with preparation and management of the LCD project. Thank you to Samantha Morris of Wombat Creative, Nigel Kimball of Yarramine Environmental and Andrew Nicholson for their involvement in the LCD project. A big thanks to Stephen Warburton for his work in upgrading and maintaining our website; and to Joyclyn Orme, our sign-writer, for the many display signs she produced. Thank you to all our sponsors - Environmental Protection Agency Qld, Toowoomba Regional Council, Ergon Energy and Fieldforce. Last but not least, thank you to all those agencies that provided literature for our displays and activities; our local state and federal politicians who give access to photocopying ; and to members and supports who contribute to HOPE's activities.

In closing, I thank the management committee for their support and assistance throughout the year. Treasurer Clare Davies is stepping down after two years in the role. Thank Clare for your time and input to HOPE.

*Frank Ondrus, President HOPE Inc.*

### **Secretary's report**

This year has been a bit like wine - the older it got, the better! We got off to a slow start with low attendance at the LCD information sessions and workshops. We changed course, and were able to spread the LCD (and general sustainability) message through various other events and activities. It took some extra work getting it organised, but it was well worth it. We were fortunate to have several great supporters and sponsors who were able to assist with quickly putting together a changed program. The Going Solar Seminars and the attendance at the Toowoomba Home and Lifestyle Expo, for instance, were a great success. It was mostly due to Frank though, that the whole process went as smoothly as it did. He did the running (and ringing) around to get all the ducks lined up. HOPE couldn't do without his organisational skills. Thank you Frank!

Besides some secretarial duties I have been taking care of the creation of an e:news bulletin on a regular basis. I hope that all our readers have enjoyed the bulletins, and feel better informed on environmental issues. I believe that HOPE is very much moving forward in promoting sustainability and in pursuing the dissemination of information. The website is contributing to this a great deal. Stephen is doing a great job keeping things going in the right direction. Hopefully the forum he is about to add to the website will create more dialogue between HOPE and the general public. We want to know what the most important environmental issues are to our members so that we can provide them with up-to-date information. I have assisted Stephen for some of this year with adding articles and snippets to the website. We are looking into reorganising some pages to make them clearer.

I'm looking forward to another successful, activity-filled year with HOPE. A big thanks to everyone for helping out. We appreciate it very much.

*Miriam Sharp, Secretary HOPE Inc.*

## Treasurer's Report

HOPE Financial Report - November 2009

Operational Year 2008/2009 (1/11/2008 - 31/10/2009)

*General account: Bank reconciliation as at 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009*

Balance at bank as at 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2008	2,085.56
Total receipts in books (1/11/08 - 21/10/09)	10,929.25
Total payments in books (1/11/08 - 21/10/09)	10,937.36
Outstanding receipts	0.00
Outstanding payments	250.00
Balance at bank at 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2009	2,327.45

### *General receipts and payments*

The main receipt of funds was the grant for the Low Carbon Diet (LCD) project (\$7500 of the \$10 000). This grant was HOPE Inc.'s main funding for the last operational year. Various donations were also received, and these are listed further on in this report.

Most of the expenses for the organisation this year have been related to the LCD project. Expenses include the purchase of items such as stamps, internet, travel and stationery; basically nothing out-of-the-ordinary. One fairly major expense was the purchase of the 2010 diaries for fund-raising purposes (\$320 for 40 diaries).

### *Low Carbon Diet (LCD)*

\$7,500.00 of the total amount of \$10,000 grant money for the LCD project was received towards the end of April from the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM). It was banked on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Expenses on this project have mainly comprised of:

- \$100.00 per month for telephone and internet (Telstra)
- \$50.00 per month for travel/fuel
- \$4,400.00 was paid to a consultant to run all the workshops for the LCD project
- Photostat paper for \$300.00 was purchased

Other donations were also received, as follows:

- \$250 sponsorship from Ergon Energy for LCD project (see H&L Expo)
- \$500 sponsorship from Toowoomba Regional Council for LCD Project (see H&L Expo)
- \$500 from Harcourts Integrity, Maylands, Western Australia
- \$200 from Excel Solar
- \$22.50 from Yarramine Environmental
- \$20 cash donation

The Sustainable House Day (SHD) (part of the LCD project) was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009, in two different people's homes. \$400 payment was received for each house - with \$400 paid to Yarramine Environmental for managing the event; \$100 to each home owner for expenses. The remainder stayed in the account.

*Clare Davies, Treasurer HOPE Inc.*

### **Website Manager's report**

The website has continued to be a great resource for HOPE members and the general public. With hard work from Miriam as she loads valuable news distributed by Frank. The site is just about to have another revamp with changes to its appearance and the addition of an online forum and perhaps the option for members to add comments to articles.

*Stephen Warburton, Website Manager HOPE Inc.*

### **IT Advisor's report**

HOPE IT advice for this year:

Only minor activity with occasional advice on Windows & Office application configuration items. Also some input into the recent submissions for laptop and projector funding.

*David Shipp, IT Advisor HOPE Inc.*

### **Climate Change Educator's report**

This has been an interesting year for me from the perspective of community education, the Global Warming debate and renewed involvement with HOPE.

In the run up to the UN COP 15 intergovernmental meeting on human induced climate change strategies at Copenhagen that will convene in December 2009, I started the year talking to Frank Ondrus about HOPE's plans for community engagement on this vital issue - as well as a stint of letter writing and direct lobbying of relevant Federal politicians. Whilst the latter activity produced little more than 'hot air' to add to climate change, my discussions with Frank resulted in my appointment as first a voluntary climate change campaigner, and now, a climate change educator for HOPE!

In this role I have been involved in a number of community environmental events with HOPE this year and this work has reminded me of two factors. Firstly, the importance of local organisation activism for environmental protection, and secondly, the highly impressive capacity of HOPE to network with the local community and produce on-the-ground outcomes well out of proportion to the organisation's relatively small size and resource base.

I shall give just one example of such achievements in 2009. And this involves HOPE's promotion of one of the Queensland State Government's community carbon reduction programs: the Low Carbon Diet. Funding to roll out this program in the Darling Downs region was obtained by HOPE earlier in the year. This has resulted in our ability to put out the message of the win-win personal financial and environmental protection opportunities available when householders reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide by following some straightforward and systematic adjustments to their daily energy and resources use.

It seems clear from my contact with the general public and local organisations during this work on the Low Carbon Diet that there is considerable scope for the Darling Downs community to start to move towards the urgently needed, low carbon economy, if global climate change is to be stabilised within safe levels. The community education challenge that has also been revealed, however, is that we are starting from a low base of awareness within the community, overall, of the seriousness of human induced climate change. I have been reminded, therefore, of the crucial role that community education can play in tackling global warming.

It has been a privilege to contribute to HOPE's work in this area in 2009 and I look forward to continuing to make my contribution to our important community educational role in 2010.

*Andy Nicholson, Climate Change Educator HOPE Inc.*

## 2010 and Beyond

As we come to the final phases of the *Low Carbon Diet* project (funding ends in 2010), we look forward to maintaining our partnership with the Solar Neighbourhood project and to seek other opportunities to promote sustainable living practices.

The management committee will also be looking to improve policy and direction; operational structure and practices; seek operational and projects funding; and to form partnerships to undertake activities in keeping with our charter.

Some items for consideration are listed below. If you and/or organisation can assist with any of these matters, or you want to put forward further suggestions, please do so.

### Ideas for consideration:

- Committee structure
  - Include position of Vice-President
  - Sub-committees - i.e. project working groups
- Operational structure
  - Policy & direction
  - Outstanding funding applications - Laptops (x2) - HOPE & NHW Toowoomba 32
  - Finances - incl. sponsorship, project & equipment grants, fund-raising
  - Marketing & promotion - include budget allocation for advertising
  - Media
  - Membership
  - Projects (& partnerships)
- Admin activities
  - Re-apply for Operating funding - fresh approach, bolster submission with major highlights including LCD project
  - Develop sponsorship package
  - Prepare marketing strategy
  - Support of, and attendance at, 2010 Earth Charter Conference (Brisbane)
  - Promote / support / participate in regular Environmental Events Calendar activities - esp. Clean Up Australia, Biodiversity Month / Threatened Species Day, Water Week and Recycling Week
- Projects
  - DVD film project - Climate change adaptation on the Darling Downs
  - Sustainability Expo - refer to old proposal for Sustainable Living Expo; and current GreenFest & World Environment Day events
  - Sustainable House Day - do we go again in 2010?
  - Solar Neighbourhood project (*ongoing*)
  - Transition Towns - [www.seac.net.au](http://www.seac.net.au) - and/or Solar Cities program
  - Regional Biodiversity Conference (2011) - in partnership with ANPC & Yarramine Environmental
  - Seminar series - with topics including:
    - Community Supported Agriculture
    - Other???

## 21 Year Report

*HOPE Comes of Age, by Michele Smith*

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, not-for-profit environmental organisation, HOPE (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) celebrates its twenty-first birthday. It's an impressive milestone for a group with such a modest beginning.

It started with an informal talk to commemorate World Environment Day at an adult education centre in Mansfield, Victoria in 1988. The speaker, Janet Mackenzie, had no idea that her speech, which she called HOPE, would initiate an explosion of support that would eventually blossom into HOPE Australia.

Janet's message to those concerned about the growing global environmental crisis was simple - ordinary people can make a difference by utilising their own unique talents to raise public awareness. By creating a network of interested supporters and by initiating individual and group actions to solve local environmental problems, society's attitude to the environment will be transformed.

Out of this concept was born HOPE's slogan - **"Think Globally - Act Locally."**

The vision and values of HOPE certainly resonated with many people, so that within a relatively short time, some 80 branches of the organisation were established in Victoria alone. It was apparent that HOPE was here to stay. To formalise its existence, it then became necessary to establish a charter. The HOPE Generator, another brainchild of founder, Janet MacKenzie, not only provides the charter but also supplies information sheets, contacts and resources to give ordinary people the options they need to lessen their impact on the environment.

Mackenzie sums it up in the HOPE Generator: "... everyone can do something, no matter how small. Maybe tomorrow they'll do more."

This maxim was firmly planted in the mind of Frank Ondrus when he and his wife, Mary, moved from Shepparton, Victoria to Toowoomba, Queensland in 1993. Firmly convinced of the valuable contribution that HOPE could make to a sustainable future, Frank established a HOPE branch in Toowoomba in September 1993.

He gathered a small band of loyal volunteers around him and, together, they worked tirelessly to expand their membership. Through their efforts, HOPE gradually began to mushroom in popularity throughout the state.

Over the past sixteen years, their achievements have been nothing short of remarkable.

For seven years they were associated with the Toowoomba Regional Environmental Council (TREC) with membership on the committee for World Environment Day and regular participation in various events. Through the generosity of the *Chronicle*, enabling HOPE to provide a weekly column in the *Downs' Star*, the organisation was able to disseminate information about its activities and provide environmental information to the general public. They acquired membership to the Queensland Conversation Council and established a website through GreenNet Australia, managed by David Shipp and later, Stephen Warburton.

According to Frank Ondrus, "We pounced on opportunities that presented themselves and then did them when no one else would." In this way, they acquired project funding, resource grants and more recognition as a viable environmental organisation.

Some of the funding allowed the publication of the *Ecology Audit* booklet in 1999. Four years in the making, it was the result of the hard work of Sandra Lackie, Christine MacGillivray, Mary Ondrus and Sue Pechey and, with the help of Stephanie Crundwell, was released as a second edition in 2005. The HOPE newsletter, edited by Robyn Whale, and, more recently, the E:news bulletin were also the results of the funding, and, through them, HOPE's message reached more people with a resultant explosion of membership and supporters.

In 2000, HOPE Victoria asked the Toowoomba branch to take over the running of the organisation, and, since then, it has gone from strength to strength, receiving its Incorporation as HOPE Australia in 2007. Frank's position changed from convenor to president.

Part of its success is due to its networking, an essential component in the realisation of HOPE's vision. It is linked to almost 30 environmental agencies through its MSP program (Mutual Support Partnership) and has numerous links to government agencies as well. "It is important to maintain good relations with our partners. We can promote the environment by tapping into our layer of agencies," Ondrus explained. "And we are mindful of a good rapport with government agencies (because this gives us) access to resources."

There is no doubt that Frank Ondrus has been the driving force behind the success of HOPE Australia. He has nurtured the organisation from the beginning and has been relentless in the pursuit of funding and support. The ensuing projects that the organisation has taken on have been prodigious and include the Organics Expo (2002), Biodiversity Expo (2003), Earth Charter Forum (2006), Keep Qld GM Free (2006) and Walk Against Warming (2007). Its biggest project thus far is the promotion of the State government's Low Carbon Diet program which is its current project and a real feather in HOPE's already impressive cap.

HOPE's future looks very bright with many projects on the drawing-board. Its continued success still relies on the support of its many volunteers and more volunteers are always needed.

You can help HOPE celebrate its twenty-one years of achievements by going along to Laurel Bank Park Pergola (Herries St side) at 11.30 am on the Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a short AGM followed by a sausage sizzle birthday lunch. Bring your own chairs, drinks and any special dietary requirements. RSVP by the 6<sup>th</sup> November by calling Miriam on 07 4659 5030 or Frank on 07 4639 2135.

By lending your support, you, too, can make a difference.

*Think Globally - Act Locally.*

*Remember, you CAN make a difference!*

Think before you print! 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

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