

Friends of Oxley Creek Common

Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday 29 May 2022

Start at 10:00 am.

Location: The Red Shed, Oxley Creek Common

Present:

Hugh Possingham, Karen Gillow, Robyn Mulder, Zena Dinesen, Lynn Whitfield, Carolyn Jones, David Kent (President OCCA), Rob Hollingworth, Cath Tavatgis, Bill Cootes, Mary Lou Simpson, Matt Mendel.

Apologies: Simon Murray, Faseny McPhee, Erica Heaton, Therese Lynch

Presidents opening address.

Hugh acknowledged the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples as traditional owners and their custodianship of the land on which we met. He paid respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country, and to their leaders past, present and emerging.

All attendees gave a brief introduction as to who they were, and what they loved about the Oxley Creek Common.

Last year's AGM minutes were read aloud by Karen Gillow (FOOCC Secretary). Mary Lou Simpson moved that they be accepted by all present. This was second by Robyn Mulder, and unanimously accepted.

President report:

As Brisbane has gradually come out of COVID restrictions, it has been great to see the number of users of the Common remaining very high as people continue to enjoy using it for exercise, a quiet walk, and the enjoyment of its amazing biodiversity.

The accounts are in good order (thanks Matt) with people paying for longer-term membership. The Tuesday Common Carers are as active as ever with Mary Lou taking advantage of changing conditions (mainly flooding) to develop new opportunities for planting and weed control.

FOOCC continues to liaise with the Brisbane City Council regarding the commencement of the Oxley Creek Transformation process at the Common. FOOCC will have to remain vigilant as the proposed development, which should be good for the site and good for nature, progresses. It is still likely that the first piece of infrastructure will be the bicycle path which will run about 40m inside (east of) the existing walking path. The cycling/walking path should take some pressure off the now crowded walking path beside the creek.

Issues on the Common with woody weeds and water hyacinth continue, particularly where Corinda High is no longer involved, as the cattle they ran in areas of the Common were

instrumental in keeping the weeds down. The biggest problem is south of Pelican Lagoon, as it is understood that the school will not be putting cattle back there. Hugh has continued to email the Qld State Govt to see what will happen. It is possible that OCCA will continue to be contracted to clear or reduce woody weeds. Lynn Whitfield confirmed that this was on the cards, but that recent flooding halted the plan. Hopefully this will begin in the near future.

Bill Cootes questioned whether the introduction of goats could be useful to manage weeds, however, discussions concluded that as they are completely indiscriminate in what they eat, they would provide more problems than solutions.

Hugh has made contact with the new Director General and is hopeful that the Common ownership may pass from State Govt to local govt. This would mean that there could be developments, such as those in Archerfield wetlands, including joining up Archerfield with the Common via the bikeway proposed in the Oxley Creek Transformation Master Plan.

A question was raised from the floor as to whether FOOCC should be extended to include Archerfield wetland. However, discussion concluded that it would be too much for FOOCC to manage, given we have limited resources in people and time.

A question was raised from the floor about whether FOOCC should be part of OCCA, rather than continuing independently. Hugh discussed the different roles that FOOCC and OCCA play. As FOOCC receives no govt funding, we are more able to be independent and raise issues forcefully, if necessary, with all levels of govt. whereas OCCA focus on on-ground rehabilitation rather than lobbying.

Future Meetings:

- 28 August 2022
- 27 Nov 2022
- 26 Feb 2023
- 28 May 2023

Lastly, Hugh offered his gratitude to the entire committee for their attendance, contributions and steadfast support.

Karen Gillow moved that the President's report be accepted. The members present voted unanimously in acceptance.

Treasurer report:

A very detailed financial report for FOOCC was forwarded by Matthew Mendel before the meeting. In summary, there is \$6,205.89 in the bank, with a recent boost to funds due to many people taking up the special 5-year membership deal (5 years for the price of 4) and four Life Memberships. The full financial report is included at the end of these minutes.

In summary, there are 34 financial members, made up of 10 x one-year memberships, 20 x five-year memberships and 4 life members.

Matt provided a list of members to the FOOCC Secretary who will cross check these with the FOOCC mailing list. Hugh noted that a new automated membership system was being

adopted by Friends of Sherwood Arboretum, and he would let the FOCC Secretary know what that was so they could investigate using it for FOCC as the current system of Mailchimp and spreadsheets was inefficient.

Matt noted he would submit the annual return once he received a copy of the AGM 2022 minutes.

Questions were raised from the floor as to what FOCC money is used for. Matt discussed previous uses, such as website and URL fees, some money for plants, and also suggested future funds may be needed to replace minor equipment that was kept on the Common within a shipping container that was recently flooded.

Lynn asked about the status of the benches proposed for the Common. Money has been allocated for these and they are currently at Robyn Mulder's house. She has information about getting a workplace health and safety (WHS) assessment done for their installation and discussed this with meeting participants. Having this done professionally gives FOCC confidence and formal surety that the seats and their installation meet all public safety requirements. It is proposed that the seats will be installed at several locations throughout the Common. Robyn confirmed she would get prices about installation and the WHS assessment ready for our next meeting. FOCC will need to liaise with the department about the locations and installation.

Karen Gillow moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Cath Tavatgis. The members present voted unanimously to accept it.

Other matters:

Tuesday Common Carers: around 200 plants were planted between Aug & Xmas in 2021. Flooding has changed almost every aspect of the landscape, but provides new opportunities. Around 10 regular volunteers continue to assist at Tuesday Common Carers meetings. On the 1st Saturday of each month the Walk on Weeds event happens between 7:00 and 9:00am at the Common. This gives volunteers the opportunity to learn about weeds from Mary Lou Simpson and is open to the public. On the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:30pm, the Bushcare and Beers event happens where volunteers undertake weeding guided by Mary Lou and then receive a voucher for a free beer that afternoon at Helios Brewing, Yeerongpilly. Both these start with volunteers meeting at the Red Shed on the Common.

Mary Lou discussed options to turn substantial camphor laurel trees, which are weeds within the Common, into nesting habitat. She has seen this done elsewhere, where the tree is lopped and poisoned, but nesting hollows of various sizes are created within the remaining trunk. She will report at the next meeting on the cost and feasibility of doing this around the Common.

General discussions:

Bill Cootes asked whether it was worthwhile using some of FOCC's funding to put nesting boxes around the Common. General discussion from the floor felt this could be beneficial and a good use of funding. Bill Cootes volunteered to look at what nesting boxes are available and how much they cost. It was requested that the boxes should focus on small

parrots and other small birds, such as pardalotes, as these species were in most need of nesting habitat. It was agreed that about 6 nesting boxes would be a good number to start with. Bill agreed to have the information available for the next meeting.

Shed contents – The container on site at the Common was flooded in February. Matt and Karen agreed that after the AGM they would assess the damage to items and determine what items were missing, as the container had also been broken into. They would determine what could be salvaged and what needed to be replaced. It was noted that both OCCA and FOCC equipment had been stored in the container.

Zena Dinesen thanked the committee for their ongoing work, with a special thank you to Mary Lou for organising and running the Tuesday Carers and producing the FOCC newsletter production. All present concurred.

Lynn Whitfield mentioned that the next **OCCA** public meeting was happening on 28 June 2022 and would feature some of the projects and contract work undertaken by OCCA's Biodiversity Services group.

COMMITTEE NOMINATION

Hugh declared all positions on the FOCC committee and committee memberships vacant.

Final nominations were accepted as follows:

- **President – Hugh Possingham** nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Mary Lou Simpson. Accepted by the nominee.
- **Treasurer – Matt Mendel** nominated by Robyn Mulder, seconded by Zena Dinesen. Accepted by the nominee.
- **Secretary – Karen Gillow** nominated by Hugh Possingham, seconded by Matt Mendel. Accepted by the nominee.
- **Assistant Secretary – Zena Dinesen** nominated by Hugh Possingham, seconded by Robyn Mulder. Accepted by the nominee.
- **Newsletter editor – Mary Lou Simpson** nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Robyn Mulder. Accepted by the nominee.
- **Social Media coordinator – Erica Heaton**, subject to her acceptance. If she is unable to continue with this work, Karen Gillow will take this over.

General Committee Members, with no special duties, were confirmed as: Lynn Whitfield, Simon Murray, Robyn Mulder, Bill Cootes, Trevor Armstrong, Rob Hollingworth, Cath Tavatgis, Carolyn Jones, and David Kent.

Faseny McPhee has withdrawn from committee as she has now moved to ACT.

All nominations were accepted unanimously and unopposed.

Meeting closed at 11:05 am.

Next meeting to be **Sunday August 28th** 2022 at the Red Shed, with a bird walk at 6:30am. Morning tea will follow at 9:30am with a general meeting between 10:00 and 11:00am.