

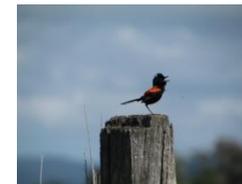


NEWSLETTER

Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc.

"Our Community Caring for Our Common"

September 2022 - Number 46



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 2022

FOCC Bird walk 6.30am
Morning Tea and
General Meeting 10 am.

Tuesday Common Carers

Tuesdays 7 – 9 am. Meet in the
car park. New members welcome.

Walk and Weed

1st Saturday of the month. 7-9am
Tools provided
For information call 0429911555

Bushcare and Beer

3rd Sunday of the month at 2.30
Weed before a beverage at Helios
Brewery.

OCCA AGM: Tuesday, 29th November.

Hear about the work of the
Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hugh Possingham

On August 28th we had a short but lively general meeting. We were lucky to have two special visitors. The first was Shannon Cupitt (Manager Strategic Infrastructure, Strategic Infrastructure Management, Corporate, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) who has recently become responsible for the infrastructure on the Common. It was fabulous to have a first visit by the state government after so many years and we look forward to increasing correspondence on issues such as weed management and the transfer of the land

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Hugh Possingham

Secretary: Karen Gillow

Assistant Secretary: Zina Dinesen

Treasurer: Matthew Mendel

Newsletter Editor: Mary Lou Simpson

Committee: Robyn Mulder, Lynn Whitfield,
Simon Murray, Trevor Armstrong, Carolyn Jones,
Dave Kent, Rob Hollingworth, Cath Tavatgis, Bill
Cootes, Therese Lynch and Erica Heaton.

BECOME INVOLVED IN OXLEY CREEK COMMON

JOIN Friends of Oxley Creek Common.

JOIN one of the weeding groups to help
maintain the natural bushland.

LIKE the **Facebook Page** of Friends of Oxley
Creek Common to keep in touch.

CHECK bird sightings on **Oxley Creek
Common Birds Facebook Page and eBird.**

VISIT the Friends of Oxley Creek Common
website:

<https://friendsofoxleycreekcommon.org>

CHECK you have paid your membership fees.
See the form below.

to the local council. Tom Bates, who manages the livestock and land for Corinda State High School, was also present. He mentioned some upgrading of the fencing and the situation with the cattle, sheep and goats. Because of school management, woody weeds in the paddocks are under control in the northern half of the Common. In the southern half of the Common,

after our lobbying, state funded woody weed removal has commenced.

Mary Lou's leadership of the bushland carers has led to many improvements since the flood. Many of our plantings have survived surprisingly well. Karen and Simon plan to put in a grant for some more tube-stock.

In the next year our plan is to press the state government further on their promise to transfer the land to the local council so the Oxley Creek Transformation plans can progress to turn Oxley Creek Common into a world class bird sanctuary.

Membership continues to grow and the bank balance is healthy, thanks to Matt, our Treasurer.

BIRD REPORT – August 2022

Hugh Possingham

Although there have not been many unusual bird species at the Common this winter, birdlife along the creek has been abundant and diverse. The plantings continue to mature and we are seeing increasing numbers of bush birds. This winter brought in a host of Spotted Pardalotes and good numbers of Grey Fantail and both whistler species. Brown Quail numbers remain low since the February 2022 flood, but we hope they will soon start breeding.

The birdwalk on Sunday August 28 attracted 55 people and we saw 70 species. Highlights included a Pied Stilt nest on Jabiru Swamp (with three eggs visible from the path, and an attentive parent), some early Sacred Kingfishers, and good views of Striated Pardalotes. Some of us enjoyed nice views of a Striated Heron on the walk back – this species is uncommon and hard to see.

Jabiru Swamp is in good health now the water hyacinth has gone, but Pelican Lagoon remains in very poor condition since the 2011 floods. Exotic fish have turned it into a turbid mess – I suspect only draining the lagoon will recover its health.

Breaking news –



A new species Radjah Shelduck – first seen at Pelican Lagoon September 2nd by Mike Bennett.

Photo by Al Hadcock.

TUESDAY COMMON CARERS

Mary Lou Simpson

The flood has given us plenty to do and many unexpected choices. There has been no general pattern to the flood damage. In some areas the Green Panic has been completely destroyed, while close by, it might be flourishing. A lot of Acacias died, but inexplicably, others survived. An amazing survivor has been a new *Streblus brunonianus*, only 500 centimetres high and a cedar, *Toona cilatus*, which took the opportunity to grow 2 metres. Most of the younger Eucalyptus species, Tuckeroos, Brown Pine, Melaleucas and Sandpaper figs have survived, while the rainforest species planted along the creek have all died or been washed away. Thankfully much of the glycine has gone too.

TCC have been concentrating on the places where there is a massive regeneration of weeds, hoping to stop this new batch seeding their next generation. Rivina and Commelina particularly, have thrived since the flood, and there are large areas of *Dychorestes*, not formerly a problem at the Common. The flood deposited plenty of rubbish.

Large areas of Green Panic have been destroyed, which has allowed formerly impenetrable sites to be replanted. The most obvious example is Stony Gully, where the grass was too dense to work on. However, the loss of so much grass has meant the Quail habitat has disappeared. Some areas of dead grass are sprouting weeds and rejuvenated grass, while other sites are still bare. A wet summer is predicted, which is likely to bring back the grass.

On some sites, the dead sticks have new shoots. Spring will reveal whether these plants are survivors or not. FOCC have funded the purchase of 100 plants: *Alectryon tormentosa*; *Indigophera australis*; *Melaleuca linarifolia*, *bracteata* and *seiberi*; *Jagera pseudorhus*; *Pittosporum revolutum* and *multiflorum*; *Achroynchia laevis*; *Lophostemon confertus*; *Flindersia schottiana*; *Streblus brunonianus*; *Eucalyptus propinqua*, *curtsii* and *crebra*. The Greening Australia species list for Oxley Creek has always been the guide to plant choice, but the loss of over 200 plants during the flood, has given us a better idea of what will survive the next inundation.



Tuesday Common Carers celebrating their 7th birthday. Photo Lynn Whitfield.

If you would like to make a difference at the Common, join us on Tuesdays at 6.45. We drive to the farthest sites, so we have left the car park by 7 am. Our sign at the bollard indicates where we are, so if you miss us, just walk down the track to find the cars. No weeding experience is necessary.

LIVING AT THE COMMON



Latham's Snipe. Photo: Paul Francis

Latham's Snipe nest in the mountains of Hokkaido, Japan and immediately migrate to the east coast of Australia, flying 10,000 kilometres and arriving predominantly in the south of Australia. The juveniles fly with the adults, which are usually found singly or in small groups. Their preferred habitat is beside freshwater ponds and marshes, with plenty of cover. They are rarely seen, except at dawn or dusk. Their northward journey begins from February through to April. Snipe were once the target of hunters but are now protected in all states.



Nothing has been observed using this large and fairly precarious nest. The structure is very impressive, so a lot of work has been abandoned.



Black-winged Stilt nest. Photo: Paul Francis

Walkers have been intrigued and delighted with the nesting habits of the Stilt in Jabiru Swamp. Although very exposed, so far it has survived predation. The parents were taking it in turn to sit on the nest, when Paul snapped the changing of the guard.



WHERE DO THE RAINBOW LORIKEETS ROOST?

Have you ever watched the flocks of screeching Rainbow Lorikeets winging overhead at dusk in an easterly direction and wondered where they are planning to roost? A study conducted by students at Griffith University has found some interesting answers.

Rainbow Lorikeets have become prevalent in cities, partly because of the increase in nectar-bearing plants. They have become so well-known and are so strikingly colourful that they easily win the most popular bird competition. Even in the bush they roost in huge groups. Rainbow Lorikeets, like old folk, have poor night vision. The larger the group the safer they are.

The Griffith University students discovered about 15 roosts in Brisbane and studied each roost, analysing aspects such as tree shape and height; density of canopy; number of trees; distance to roads, water and parks.

They found that a common feature of roosts was interconnected canopies and a lot of artificial lighting. One roost stood out: Carina Leagues Club, which is lit by the lights of the nearby stadium. A video revealed that about 35,800 birds roosted there, give or take a few thousand. So next time you see a noisy flock

flying east, it could be that they are headed for the Carina Leagues Club to sleep with the lights on.

Source: 'The Weekend Australian Magazine' Aug 27-28, 2022, extracted from Darryl Jones new book *Curlews on Vulture Street* NSW Books.

OUR SUMMER VISITORS From Papua New Guinea and Indonesia

Channel-billed Cuckoo: a raucous visitor, is looking for the nests of crows, magpies and currawongs. When their young are ready, noisy flying practice can be heard in the early mornings around February and March.

Rufous Fantail: weighing around 10 grams, this busy little bird migrates to Cape York, Papua New Guinea and the Torres Strait. Those nesting in south-eastern Australia, fly 3,500 kilometres.

Dollarbird: easily identified in flight by its white wing-spots. Can be found on exposed perches.

Eastern Koel: arrives in Spring to breed in nests of Peewees, Figbirds and larger Honeyeaters.

BRISBANE BUTTERFLY COUNT in the Oxley Creek catchment

All events are Saturdays from 9 – 11. Join in the fun and learn about these beautiful creatures.

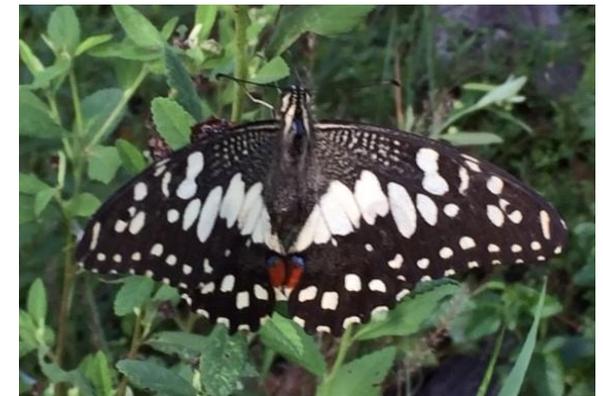
10 September – Nosworthy Park, Hall Avenue, Corinda. Meet at the shelter shed.

17 September – Oxley Creek Common, Sherwood Road, Rocklea. Meet at the Red Shed.

24 September – Archerfield Wetlands, Bowhill Road, Durack. Meet at the yellow gate.

1 October – The Fort Bushland Reserve, Fort Road, Oxley. Meet at the shelter shed.

To find other surveys around Brisbane visit: <https://www.brisbanesbigbutterflycount.org.au/index.php/diary.html>



Orchard Swallowtail. Photo: Justine Ward.

SOME SURVIVORS



The *Acacia fimbriata* have flourished, while other acacias didn't survive.



Wombat Berry, *Eustrephus latifolius* has been found under piles of dead grass.



One tall *Hymenosporum flavum*, Native Frangipani, died, while several smaller specimens are now in full flower.

PLANTINGS SINCE MAY

Over 240 plants have gone in since May. That includes 80 tubes planted by the Bush and Beer volunteers in Stony Gully. Thursday Creek Care planted 60 tubes on a bare slope, just past Cockspur Halt. The remainder have been planted by Tuesday Common Carers. In addition, a large planting in the paddock was conducted by OCCA on National Tree Day.

Plants have been supplied by:

Friends of Oxley Creek Common - 100 plants
 OCCA - 80 plants
 Corinda High nursery, via Trevor Armstrong and Corbin Zeller – 20 plants
 Marie Hollingsworth – 20 plants
 Mary Lou Simpson – 20 plants

Please send Contributions, Comments and Corrections to Mary Lou Simpson
marylouit@hotmail.com

Thanks to Al Hadcock, Paul Francis and Lynn Whitfield for sharing their photos. All other photos are by Mary Lou Simpson

Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc.
 is dedicated to preserving this natural habitat for wildlife.

Become a friend of The Common

Pay your membership directly into our BOQ account BSB 124017 – Ac 20161909 and send the appropriate details to: friendsofoxleycreekcommon@gmail.com

or

Return a cheque with this form or the appropriate details

PO Box 319, SHERWOOD, Qld 4075

You will automatically receive the Newsletter.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

P/code: _____ Date: _____

Membership:	1 year	5 years	
Single	\$15	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concession:	\$12	\$48	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family:	\$20	\$80	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group:	\$30	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate:	\$80	\$320	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life Membership	\$400	Concession \$320	
Donation:	\$....		