

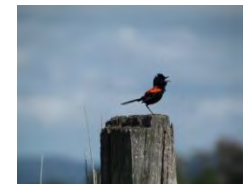


# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc.

*"Our Community Caring for Our Common"*

*May 2018 - Number 29*



### WHAT'S ON

#### OCCA GENERAL MEETING

Red Shed

Last Tuesday of every second month

5.30 for 6pm

**Save the date**

#### PEAKS TO POINTS

14<sup>TH</sup> July – 29<sup>TH</sup> July

Family Day at Oxley Creek Common

15<sup>TH</sup> July.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Steve Gray**

The Friends of Oxley Creek Common welcome the release of the draft master plan for the revitalisation of The Common and we urge the public to have their say during the period for public comment which closes on May 27.

The public consultation process undertaken by Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd has been generally very positive and we look forward to

further participation as the master plan is finalised.

With minor reservations we welcome the draft master plan as it relates to Oxley Creek Common. At this stage the draft fulfils our desire to preserve and enhance Oxley Creek Common as a world-class birding destination which will return significant income to the community of Brisbane.

FOOCC have accepted the inevitability of a "shared path" which will include bicycles running through The Common and we will continue to lobby for it to be very much a family-oriented path and not a temptation to speed.

According to the draft, work on The Common is listed as "medium term 6-10 years" so there is plenty of time to contribute to the future design. The fact that other projects upstream will occur first will allow us to see how Oxley Creek Transformation operates when it comes to the engineering they propose. It will also relieve pressure on The Common as the project proceeds.

Happily, OCT has recognised the birding potential of the whole project and facilities for birders are included throughout.

This has prompted birding guru Prof Hugh Possingham (whose lead we have followed in the design of the future Common) to call for birders to explore areas upstream of The Common to develop a complete bird census for the whole area under consideration.

There has been some criticism that the draft is too vague and lacks detail, but that is probably to be expected at this early stage.

The draft Master Plan is ambitious, and it will certainly cost much more than the \$100 million allocated to it by Brisbane City Council over the next 20 years. Oxley Creek Transformation has said that five percent of the land in the catchment will be used to raise money, but state and federal government input will be required, as will that of private companies and entrepreneurs. And that's where problems might arise. Will governments and private enterprise back the council plan?

Please send us your feedback or send it direct to OCT by May 27. Steve Gray Ph: 0421 984 588

## OXLEY CREEK DRAFT PLAN

The draft plan for Oxley Creek has now been released:

<http://www.oxleycreek.com.au/draft-master-plan>.

The Council is holding 'Information Kiosks' to hear your opinion. The venues are:

**Coles at Corinda, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, from 9 – 11**

**Sherwood State School Fete, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, from 9 – 12.**

**Brisbane Markets at Sherwood Road, Rocklea, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, from 7 – 10.**

**You can express your view by May 27th:**

**Email:** [info@oxleycreek.com.au](mailto:info@oxleycreek.com.au)

**Complete a survey:** [www.oxleycreek.com.au](http://www.oxleycreek.com.au)

**Write to:** Oxley Creek Transformation, GPO Box 1434, Brisbane, Qld 4001

**Sign up** to receive the Oxley Creek Transformation Newsletter at the website.

**Nicole Johnston** is holding a discussion forum at **St Matthew's Anglican Church, Sherwood Rd, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, from 7 – 8 pm.**

Nicole has published some of the master plan in her newsletter. For more information: [www.nicolejohnston.com.au](http://www.nicolejohnston.com.au)

## TUESDAY COMMON CARERS

The wet weather has kept weeders away from the lower creek bank, where both weeds and native plants have benefited from a hot and damp autumn.

Two patches of guinea grass *Megathyrsus maximus* have been cleared from the slopes near the shed. Thanks to OCCA's volunteer program, St Aiden's Geography students have planted these areas.

Cobblers pegs, glycine and asparagus fern have been cleared from the area beyond the first gully. TCC have planted that area with grasses and trees, including Tuckeroo, *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*, Glossy laurel, *Eupomatia laurina* and *Dodonea triquetra*.

We are now working further down the track, removing Wandering Jew, asparagus fern, and glycine. Natural revegetation has been found underneath the weeds.

Thanks to the hardy band of Tuesday volunteers, who continue to work tirelessly. Thanks as well, to Thursday Creek Care, who have been working on the creek bank and down the track.

### **FOUND – welcome and unwelcome:**

Emu foot, *Cullen tenax*. This easily overlooked, delicate creeper was found near a patch of *Einardia*. It is host plant for the Chequered Swallowtail butterfly.

A less encouraging find is the appearance of Khaki weed, *Alternanthera pungens* which has appeared beside the track. A 'burr' grows at each joint, which contains the seeds.

## VISITORS and RESIDENTS



A family of quail take flight. The long grass this season has been especially beneficial to these birds. Photo SG



Insect and animal interaction. Photo SG

## CATERPILLARS

Weeders at The Common have found several nests of caterpillars – *Ochrogaster lunifer*, also known as Processionary caterpillars.

The caterpillars can leave a thread of silk from their sphindets near their mouths. They feed nocturnally, and the thread is left behind as they climb the tree beside the nest to feed, before descending at dawn.

If they totally defoliate the tree beside the nest, they go walkabout in lines, to find a new tree or to find a spot to pupate. They keep in line by following the tail hairs on the caterpillar in front. Thanks to Fasanya McPhee for the photo ID. Source:

<http://lepidoptera.butterflyhouse.com.au/notes/unifer.html>



Caterpillars found at the base of a tree. Photo MS.

## THURSDAY CREEK CARE PLANTINGS

Some time ago, the Thursday Creek Care workers began clearing the creek bank between the road and the Red Shed. They planted a variety of trees, which has been continually monitored, particularly by Trevor Armstrong. These seeds were found in that planting.



The seeds of *Pittosporum revolutum*, (Forest Pittosporum). Photo MS

## FUNGI

The wet autumn has produced some interesting examples of fungi at The Common. Peter Wohlleben, in his book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, discusses the inter-relationship between fungi and trees:

“With the help of mycelium of an appropriate species for each tree ... a tree can greatly increase its functional root surface so that it can suck up considerably more water and nutrients. ... The fungus not only penetrates and envelops the tree’s roots, but also allows its web to roam through the surrounding forest floor. In so doing, it extends the reach of the tree’s own roots.”



*Coprinellus disseminatus* Photo RM



*Ganoderma* sp Photo RM



*Ganoderma* sp Photo RM

**PHOTO CREDITS:** SG: Steve Gray; RM: Robyn Mulder; MS Mary Lou Simpson

Send comments, corrections and contributions to [maryloulit@hotmail.com](mailto:maryloulit@hotmail.com)

The Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc. represents a broad range of individuals and community groups that have shared visions in educational, social, ecological and agricultural sustainability.

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