

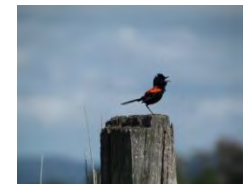


# NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc.

"Our Community Caring for Our Common"

December 2022 - Number 47



### SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023**  
FOOCC 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. Reconvenes February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### Walk and Weed

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.** 7-9am  
Reconvenes March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
Tools provided  
For information call 0429911555

#### Bushcare and Beer

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2.00**  
Reconvenes 28<sup>th</sup> February.  
Weed before a beverage at Helios Brewery.

#### OCCA General Meeting

**28<sup>th</sup> February Red Shed**  
Speaker is Brett Malcolm on frogs. 5.30 for 6pm start.

### 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, Theresa Lynch and Erica Heaton.

### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Hugh Possingham**

It is wonderful seeing FOOCC thriving - especially with respect to vegetation management and useful infrastructure like seats and signs. In the absence of leadership from the landowners we are pushing to get more things done. The poor state of Pelican lagoon is a disgrace for the state government. We are especially grateful for cooperation from our friends - OCCA and Corinda State High School and many more. Next year is going to be important for progressing towards the goal of a well-funded and managed bird sanctuary.

### 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.

### Butterfly Survey

9 – 11am Nosworthy Park  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

## TUESDAY COMMON CARERS

Spring rain has helped recovery from the flood. The weeds especially, have flourished, with Cobbler's pegs, Rivina, Fleabane, Bitter cress and Commelina providing the greatest problem. Weeders collect about 6 bags of seeds each week. The piles of Commelina in one site showed no signs of the plant dying. Thanks to Trevor Armstrong, Ian Lees and Robyn Mulder of Thursday Creek Care, these piles were taken to the dump, weighing in at over 300 kilos.

Two members of the group have their own tree-poppers, which have been very useful in the removal of large stands of Scotch Thistle. It is pleasing to see the thistles have been mowed in the paddock closest to the Red Shed, but there are masses of weeds producing seeds in other paddocks, especially Balloon cotton bush.

Planting has continued in the weeded sites. However, the scrub turkeys have managed to destroy at least 20 plants. One even managed to turn a guard around to reach the plant. Thanks to Trevor Armstrong and Corbin Zeller for two trays of plants from Corinda High School. OCCA has won a substantial grant from Ingrain, which will satisfy our planting needs for next year.

Tuesday Common Carers have welcomed new members this year. Our average attendance in November was 11. Congratulations to this energetic, cheerful and resilient band of workers. Although weeders often only see weeds when they are walking, the changes are discernible, with large areas that resemble bushland, which are providing native habitat. One aim in 2023 will be to restore more of the creek bank. Our Christmas break-up will be on December 13<sup>th</sup>, after an hour of weeding.

## NATURAL REGENERATION

Since the flood and the spring rains, there have been exciting appearances of native plants.



**Spiked Centaury** *Schenkia australis*. Masses found near Stony Gully.

**Tuckeroo** *Cupaniopsis parvifolia* has self-seeded in several areas.

**Eriochloa sp** This grass has re-emerged in competition with Rhodes grass.



**Apium prostratum**, known as sea celery, is a native to Australia and New Zealand, often grown in home gardens. It has a leaf and aroma similar to celery.

**Emu Foot** *Cullen tenax*, can be recognised by its narrow, divided leaf. Although one patch was Destroyed by the flood, it has appeared on the edge of the track in other areas. This plant is host to the Chequered Swallowtail butterfly.





This **Striped Marsh Frog** emerged from a mass of *Dychoriste*. This hardy frog likes leaf litter and can be recognised by its 'Tok Tok' call.

## LIVING AT THE COMMON



**Masked Lapwing**

Both sexes share nest preparation and will use spurs to defend their nest. Photo: Zara Bailey.



**Sacred Kingfisher**

Is distinguished by its orange spot near the eye. This kingfisher eats reptiles and lizards and nests in tree hollows and bank burrows. Photo: Zara Bailey.



**Bar-shouldered Dove**. Feeds on seeds on the ground. Displays chestnut panels on wings and white tail tips in flight. Photo: Zara Bailey



**Egrets** lift their wings to startle water creatures. Medium Egrets young leave the nest after 60-70 days. Photo: Zara Bailey



**Eastern Brown Snake** is the second most venomous snake in the world. Will attack if provoked. Usually shy and inactive for 90% of the time.

## WEED ASSESSMENT

<b>Weed</b>	<b>Status 2016</b>	<b>Current Status</b>
<b>Glycine</b> <i>Neonotonia wightii</i>	Major infestations, metres high throughout the site.	Five areas where major infestations have been removed continue to produce new growth. One large section was removed by the 2022 flood.
<b>Asparagus Fern</b> <i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Mainly along the creekbank, metres high in the trees. Some areas impenetrable.	The work begun by the Green Army in 2017 has been continued by OCCA's BSU unit. There are still major infestations, but over half has been removed. Seedlings persist.
<b>Chinese Elm</b> <i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Several large specimens providing masses of new seedlings.	The large specimens remain a problem. Work continues to remove new growth, but new growth can easily be missed on the creek bank.
<b>Wandering Jew</b> <i>Commelina benghalensis</i>	At least 6 dense persistent areas.	Has been partly controlled in 3 areas but is still a major problem. Attempts to smother infestations with black plastic were destroyed by the flood.
<b>Cobblers Pegs</b> <i>Gidens pilosa</i>	Seeding throughout the site.	Massive reappearance of this weed after the 2022 flood and spring rains. Seed removal continues.
<b>Coral Berry</b> <i>Rivina humilis</i>	Throughout the site, with 3 dense and persistent areas.	Two dense areas have been controlled, but spring rains have brought massive regrowth, requiring seed removal.
<b>Cinderella Weed</b> <i>Calyptocarpus vialis</i>	Throughout the site	Remains persistent throughout the site.
<b>Fleabane</b> <i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Worst infestations have occurred since 2019 during wet summers	Continued removal of seedheads and monitoring of gullies where it is most prevalent.
<b>Green panic</b> <i>Megathyrsus maximum</i>	Throughout the site.	Minor removal for new plantings. 2022 flood removed vast areas of grass. Spring rains have revived areas of 'dead' grass. The Quail use it for cover and nesting, so gradual replacement is necessary.
<b>Rhodes grass</b> <i>Chloris gayana</i>	Persistent areas throughout the site. especially where it has significantly narrowed the track.	Generally unaffected by the flood. Difficult to remove. Retards the growth of native ground covers.

## SECONDARY WEEDS

<b>Dyschoriste</b> <i>Dyschoriste depressa</i>	Unnoticed until 3 years ago.	Large infestations since the 2022 flood.
<b>Mile a Minute</b> <i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	A minor problem.	Has invaded large areas on the creek bank since the flood.
<b>Bitter Cress</b>	Unnoticed until recent wet summers.	Spring growth prevalent throughout the site in 2022.
<b>Brazilian Nightshade</b> <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>	Prevalent throughout the site	Has flourished in the recent wet summers.
<b>Leucaena</b> <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>	One site with several specimens, treated in 2019.	Regrowth in same area, with some new plants in gullies.
<b>Blackberry nightshade</b> <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Occasional instances.	Large infestations of plants over a metre high in 2022.
<b>Blue billygoat weed</b> <i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Unnoticed at the site until 3 years ago.	Large infestations in 2022.
<b>Khaki weed</b> <i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Appeared in 2018 along the track, possibly brought in on vehicle tyres.	Generally controlled.
<b>Johnson grass</b> <i>Sorghum halepense</i>	More than 5 instances.	Difficult to remove. Appears in diverse spots.
<b>Wild tobacco</b> <i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Occasional instances.	Flood has brought multiple seedlings to gullies.
<b>Scotch thistles</b>	Occasional instances.	Massive thistle growth this spring.



## BIRD WALK

Around 20 people arrived for the bird walk on December 4<sup>th</sup>, ably led by Hugh Possingham. There were several highlights – two lovely Tawny Frogmouths were cuddled up near Fern Gully. Of special interest was the Eastern Brown Snake at Snake Gully. Despite the species' shy reputation, this one was unmoved by the group of people looking at it.

The expanse of water below the cattle yards is a popular spot for water birds, with a good range of species visible. Noticeable because of their swaying action in search of food, were the Royal Spoonbills. It was pleasing to hear a Reed-Warbler back at Snake Gully.



Please send Contributions, Comments and Corrections to Mary Lou Simpson  
[marylouit@hotmail.com](mailto:marylouit@hotmail.com)

Thanks to Zara Bailey for sharing her photos. All other photos are by Mary Lou Simpson.

Thanks to Carole Bristow for plant identification.

**Sources:** Australian Museum Fact Sheet on Eastern Brown Snakes.

*Field Guide to Australian Birds*, Michael Morecombe.



**Variegated Fairy-wren** having found a red berry, possibly from a Brazilian Nightshade.  
Photo: Zara Bailey.

**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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Membership:</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>5 years</b>	
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:	\$...		