

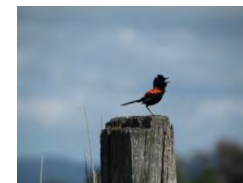


NEWSLETTER

Friends of Oxley Creek Common Inc.

"Our Community Caring for Our Common"

June 2024 - Number 53



SAVE THE DATE

**FOOCC Bird walk 6.30 am Sunday,
25th August,
followed by Morning Tea and
a General Meeting at 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
To register call 0429911555

Bushcare and Beer
3rd Sunday of the month, 2.00pm
Afterwards a quencher at Helios
Brewery.

OCCA General Meeting
25th June at the Red Shed, 5.30.
Hear Fiona Giblin discuss the threat
of myrtle rust.

Friends of Oxley Creek Common Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Sunday 26 May 2024

Started at 10:00 am

Location: The Red Shed, Oxley Creek Common

Present: Karen Gillow, Hugh Possingham, Carmel Mendel, Simon Murray, Mary Lou Simpson, Matthew Mendel, Robyn Mulder, Trevor Armstrong, Cath Tavatgis, Rob Hollingworth, Dianne Reynolds.

Apologies: Lynn Whitfield, Zena Dinesen

Presidents opening address and report.

Hugh acknowledged the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples as traditional owners and their custodianship of the land on which we met.

Hugh acknowledged that the minutes of the 2023 AGM had been distributed and asked the floor if there were any questions or objections. There were none and Hugh moved that they be accepted. This was seconded by Cath Tavatgis. Passed unanimously.

Hugh noted that the accounts were in a very good state, >\$8,000 of assets, and thanked Mat Mendel for that. He also confirmed that there were no immediate development threats to the Common, other than the ongoing weed and water management issues.

That said, we are in a holding pattern as we wait for the state government to transfer the land to Brisbane City Council. We have been waiting for 20 years for this transfer of land that will enable the Oxley Creek Bird Sanctuary to start developing, in the meantime we progress with minor improvements.

Tuesday Common Carers have been doing a fantastic job, as can be seen in the report on their activities provided by Mary Lou. Hugh commended Mary Lou on coordinating a remarkable and productive team.

Hugh also noted that FOOCC's ongoing relationship with both OCCA and the Corinda State High School (Tom Bates) was very good, all working in partnership.

Lastly, he thanked the entire committee for their ongoing contributions and steadfast support.

Secretary's report

Future meeting dates at 10am were proposed:

- Sunday, 25 August 2024
- Sunday, 24 November 2024
- Sunday, 23 February 2025
- Sunday, 25 May 2025 (AGM) all accepted.

All agreed these were suitable.

Karen confirmed that she would not be standing for the position of Secretary again, after 6 years in the role. She confirmed that she was happy to continue looking after the FOCC website but would relinquish all other responsibilities currently held by the FOCC Secretary.

On behalf of the committee, Hugh thanked Karen for her contributions. Several members noted that the quality and timeliness of her work was exceptional.

Treasurer's report

Current bank balance is \$8,126.18. The only known upcoming costs were: a tree popper to remove large woody weeds and the fee for annual return (due to the ATO within one month of the AGM). Both of these were well within the available funds. No other major expenses were expected.

There are currently: 48 current financial members, broken down into 7 x 1 year memberships, 37 x 5 year memberships, and 4 x life members. Simon Murray moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted and that was seconded by Trevor Armstrong.

Nominations and election of office bearers and committee

Outgoing President (Hugh Possingham) vacated the position of Chair of the meeting, with Rob Hollingworth assuming the Chair's position for the election of office bearers and committee members.

Office bearer nominations:

- President – Hugh Possingham, nominated by Trevor Armstrong, seconded by Cath Tavatgis.
- Treasurer – Matthew Mendel, nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Robyn Mulder.
- Secretary – current secretary not re-nominating, Robyn Mulder was nominated by Hugh Possingham and was seconded by Mary Lou Simpson.

Other committee positions:

- Assistant Secretary – Zena Dinesen (Zena confirmed she would continue this prior to the meeting.)
- Newsletter editor – Mary Lou Simpson confirmed she would continue in this role.

- Tuesday Common Carer coordinator – Mary Lou Simpson confirmed she would also continue in this role.
- Web site coordinator – Karen Gillow, volunteered.
- Social media – Cath Tavatgis confirmed she would continue in this role.
- Peaks to Points, Family Day contact person – Simon Murray confirmed he would continue in this role.

Other general committee members confirmed: Lynn Whitfield, Trevor Armstrong and Rob Hollingworth.

All elected unopposed and unanimously.

AGM Closed at 10:20am

BECOME INVOLVED

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 FOCC website:
<https://friendsofoxleycreekcommon.org>

TUESDAY COMMON CARERS

Mary Lou Simpson

The achievements of this group in the last few months have been absolutely amazing. We regularly have 15 weeders, who have been confronted with knee-high masses of *Commelina benghalensis*, *Rivina*, Brazilian Nightshade, Green Panic and Glycine. They have never been daunted and have cleared huge areas, in the hope of finding some of our 2023 plantings. In some places the Green Panic has been taller than the weeders. The huge piles of *Commelina* are testament to their work. Beyond the Fern Gully culvert, new plantings have replaced what had been totally smothered.

One of the areas cleared of *Commelina*, was the creek bank below the Timberfell Seat. Although this area had been cleared by Thursday Creek Care, this pestiferous weed was back. Undaunted, these volunteers set about clearing the area for an OCCA corporate planting. This clearing allows a clear view of the creek. On your walk, you may be rewarded with stunning reflections.

We have also worked in the large area beyond Fern Gully and hope to complete that section, creating a managed area down to Scrub Wren Point.

New members are welcome. Meet this amazing group of people in the car park at 6.45am.



Tuesday Common Carers hard at work at Scrub Wren Point. Below, is an example of the weed explosion.



EXTRA HELPERS

Thursday Creek Care have been to the Common on two occasions this year, working on *Commelina benghalensis* at Jagera Corner and between Commelina Gully and Timberfell. Trevor Armstrong and Mick Richardson took their loaded utes to the dump, where they left over 400kgs of the weed.

Friday Volunteers is an informal meeting of anyone who wants to wander down the track and find Anna Jack or Mary Lou Simpson. Anna's work has been invaluable in keeping the flat area adjacent to the track weed free.

BSU have been at the Common several times in the last few months, working on glycine, commelina, asparagus fern, wild tobacco, groundsel and green panic.

Bushcare and Beer met for the first time in April, when an energetic group of 13 set to work on a planting that had been smothered by weeds. Happily, plenty of plants had survived. This group enjoys a beer at Helios Brewery afterwards. Thanks to the OCCA team: Lynn Whitfield, Dave Kent and Ray Ison who organise this group.

OCCA corporate days bring large groups of volunteers to the Common. This year a group from KPMG planted the cleared area down from Timberfell, under the direction of Jamie.

Thanks to all these people. Their help has been invaluable.

BIRD WALK NOTES

Hugh Possingham

About 30 keen birders started out at 6.30, just before dawn on 26th May, heading towards Pelican Lagoon. The birds were very active at the start of the trail, with lots of species calling at the Birding Ridge including both Grey and Rufous Fantails. A very tame Pacific Baza was a highlight of the walk along the creek. We focussed on the calls of common birds such as Silvereye, Striated Pardalote and Grey Shrike thrush.

Aside from the Baza we were also lucky to see two more birds of prey thanks to the sharp eyes of participants – Whistling and Black-shouldered Kites. Jabiru swamp and Pelican Lagoon had more waterbirds than usual with Great and Plumed Egrets, three species of Cormorant and Pelicans doing their remarkable synchronised fishing thing. A few were lucky to see a Rikali at Jabiru Swamp. We found three species of finch and three species of fairywren.



Birders had a misty start to the walk.

Photo:

Matt Mendel

FIRE ANTS

Walkers will have noticed the stakes marking fire ant nests on the track to the lagoons and near the very old ants' nest before Jagera Corner. All these nests have been treated. There is a high likelihood that there are many more nests. Visitors to the Common need to be watchful and not disturb the nests.

Fire ants are:

- copper brown, with a darker abdomen;
- 2 – 6 mm and vary in size;
- Swarm if you disturb the nest;
- the nests have no obvious entry holes.
- the nests might appear dome-shaped, but may also be flat and look like disturbed soil
- they are usually found in lawns, pasture or by the roadside.

For more information see

<http://www.fireants.org.au/look>

There is also a photo gallery on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries:

<http://www.daf.qld.gov.au>

If you are suspicious that a pile of disturbed earth might be a fire ants' nest, report a nest:

<https://ants.daf.qld.gov.au/table-of-contents/report-fire-ants/>



For immediate assistance at the Common contact OCCA at occa_po@oxleycreek.org.au

COCKATOOS UPSKILLING

About 10 years ago, Sulphur-crested cockatoos were observed opening bin lids to find food in Stanwell Park, NSW. Two years later, the behaviour had spread to 44 suburbs. As this behaviour spreads around Sydney suburbs, the Clever Cockie Project has reported distinct patterns in this social learning. Cockatoos in some areas open bins with their feet rather than with their beaks. Like the Cockatoos, humans copy each other in their techniques to disrupt the raids. This Cockatoo behaviour has become a world-renowned example of animals learning from each other.

Source: *The Sydney Morning Herald* 23.4.24 p29

LIVING AT THE COMMON



Huntsman spider

Holoconia immanis commonly known as a Huntsman spider is so named because of its hunting skill, which is dependent on its remarkable speed. There are 155 species of this spider in Australia. Having poor eyesight, they sense vibrations of possible prey through their legs. They eat insects and in turn are food for geckos and birds.

Source: Identification by Penny Mills. Information from Australian Geographic.

Wikstroemia indica about a metre tall managed to survive underneath a mass of Green Panic, Rivina and Glycine. It had even managed to produce some berries. It is also known as Bootlace Bark or Bushman's Bootlace. The berries are poisonous.



Wikstroemia indica



Enlarge this image to see the delicate filaments.



At least 5 Spoonbills have been foraging around Jabiru Swamp. Kevin Fairley's photo captures the ridges on the bill and the yellow patches above the eyes.



Spot the Cattle Egret.



Some of the amazing fungi amongst the leaf litter.

**Friends of Oxley Creek Common
have named
ANNA JACK
Honorary Life Member
For her untiring restoration
work.**

SAVE THE DATE

National Tree Day at the Common

28th July OCCA community tree planting.
25th and 26th July corporate tree planting.

Peaks to Point

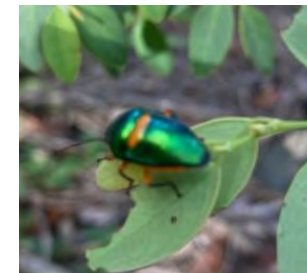
20th July – 4th August
Sunday, 21st July Family Fun Day.
Check out the FOCC stall.

Please send contributions, especially photos,
comments and corrections to Mary Lou
Simpson.
maryloulit@hotmail.com

Photo credits: Matt Mendel, Kevin Fairley.
All other photos are by the editor.

CORRECTION

Thanks to Penny Mills who has named the
'beetle' in the last edition as a Green Jewel
Bug *Lampromica senator*.



Kevin Fairley's capture of a Pacific Baza

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:	\$...		