

Friends of Oxley Creek Common
Annual General Meeting on Sunday 21 May 2023, 10:00 am.
The Red Shed, Oxley Creek Common

Present:

Hugh Possingham, Karen Gillow, Zena Dinesen, Simon Murray, Mary Lou Simpson, Cath Tavatgis

Apologies: Lynn Whitfield, Robyn Mulder, Trevor Armstrong, Matthew Mendel

Presidents opening address:

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

President AGM report:

Karen distributed copies of the 2022 AGM minutes and Hugh moved that they be accepted by all present, seconded by Mary Lou Simpson. They were accepted unanimously.

It has been great to see the numbers of visitors to the Common continue to increase, especially after the recent ABC TV show *Secret Life of Urban Birds with Dr Anne Jones*, including a long segment on the Common. An issue arising with the increase of the Common's popularity is it becoming very busy. Mary Lou agreed with Hugh and suggested that a birders track could be developed closer to the creek from the track gate to stony gully.

The accounts are in good order (thanks Matt) with more people paying for 5-year memberships. The Tuesday Common Carers are as active as ever with Mary Lou doing a great job at planting and weed control, in spite of the brush turkeys.

Hugh recently wrote to Local and State Government Member (published in the FOCC [February newsletter](#)), but we have only received a general acknowledgement of the letter and no specific reply to the issues raised.

Hugh recently gave a talk to a freshwater fish association, and they were enthusiastic about doing surveys of the Common to see what fish life is present. They thought that there probably wouldn't be many carp, but there were bound to be Tilapia, which spread throughout Brisbane during floods. Tilapia are impossible to completely get rid of but can be managed. They were keen to conduct aquatic surveys in the common water ways we will see if we can coordinate a trip. **Zena** volunteered to check what information is available for the common about fish life from her contacts in fisheries management in Queensland. This information can help to inform future management.

I have also been doing guided walks with other interested groups, also helping to raise the profile of the Common.

Lastly, I am grateful to the entire committee for their contributions and steadfast ongoing support.

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

Treasurer report:

Karen Gillow delivered this in Matt's absence. A very detailed financial report for FOCC was forwarded by Matthew Mendel before the meeting. In summary, there is just over \$7k in the bank, with a recent boost to funds due to a steady growth in membership, with 44 financial members at the date of this meeting, up from 34 at the last AGM. The bulk of these are 5 year+ members (5 years for the price of 4). No significant upcoming bills to be paid. The full financial report is included at the end of these minutes.

The Office of Fair Trading's "Annual Return of Association" form is due for lodgement within 1 month of the AGM. The Treasurer has the document and will complete and lodge it (same as last year). The usual lodgement fee will be payable.

Hugh Possingham moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Karen Gillow. All members present supported acceptance unanimously.

Other general matters:

Tues Common Carers (TCC):

The TCC now averages 10 people each week, sometimes 14. Thursday Creek Care, who come on their 9 weekly rotation, do vegetation work on Thursdays and as they have an auger, Mary Lou often does new planting then. Generally, things are going well with the TCC, although there has been an ongoing battle brush turkeys digging and having a serious impact on recent plantings. More robust tree-guards have been used to help prevent this.

Mary Lou requested a special note of thanks to Anna Jack, a TCC volunteer, who has devoted many hours, several days each week, to care of the Common's vegetation. She has made an extraordinary effort and Mary Lou and the committee express their appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Anna.

Given the increase in visitors, including people being more interested in birds, at the Common, Karen asked whether signs with QR codes around the Common might be valuable in increasing "citizen science" participation. The QR codes could possibly link directly to the Common's eBird site or to our website and other information. Hugh noted that he was instrumental in developing signs at the Archerfield wetlands and that this might be able to be replicated at the Common. It was agreed that a survey of our membership about what

they might find valuable, including signs with links, signs about birds and/or plants, should be done by **Karen** before the next general meeting in August.

General discussion

Future meetings confirmed as the last Sunday, every 3 months as follows:

- 27 August 2023
- 26 November 2023
- 25 February 2024
- 26 May 2024 (AGM)

All starting at 10:00, finishing at 11:00, and preceded by a guided Bird Walk led by Hugh Possingham, between 6:30 & 9:30am, followed by light refreshments before the meeting commences. Bird walks will continue to be limited to 30 people through an Eventbrite registration organised by the FOCC Secretary a few weeks before each event. All members welcome to the meetings.

Cath discussed the logo her niece has developed. Whilst still in early stages of development, Cath will share the email with the logo with all committee members for their comments. Once developed, the logo can be used on the web site, the FB page, signs around the common and any other publicity for FOCC. Once finalised, **Cath** will provide appropriate files for use in these places.

Simon suggested that further to the poor response to Hugh's letter to local state govt members, a general letter-writing campaign might get the attention required. Three methods of doing this were discussed:

1. A general letter where supporters simply added their details to support the letter;
2. An online letter where supporters could use a draft letter content provided, but edit with the ability to edit this before sending; or
3. An email to all FOCC members asking them to write to specific email address(es) but providing possible paragraphs they could use in their own personal email.

Simon will work with Hugh to decide on the best approach for this, and when decided can forward details to Karen as Secretary for distribution throughout the FOCC membership.

Hugh reminded everyone about the National Tree Day even on 30 July, currently advertised on the FOCC FB page. This can go into the next FOCC newsletter. **Hugh** will discuss with David Kent what plants are being planted to ensure that further noisy minor habitat is not created.

Mary Lou reminded everyone that the next newsletter is coming out soon so to get her any stories or pictures. **Hugh** to provide Mary Lou with information on mistletoe so she can prepare an article about that.

Karen raised whether the committee was happy for the FOCC Secretary to follow up people as their membership expired. All agreed this was worth doing.

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 Cath Tavatgis seconded by Mary Lou Simpson. Hugh accepted the position.
- Treasurer – Matt Mendal nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Hugh Possingham. Matt accepted the position via email.
- Secretary – Karen Gillow nominated by Hugh Possingham, seconded by Simon Murray. Karen accepted the position.
- Newsletter editor – Mary Lou Simpson nominated by Zena Dinesen, seconded by Karen Gillow. Mary Lou accepted the position.
- Social Media Secretary – Cath Tavatgis nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Mary Lou Simpson. Cath accepted the position.
- Assistant Secretary – a new position was proposed by Karen Gillow to assist with FOCC Secretary responsibilities, in particular FOCC email monitoring and responses. Zena Dinesen nominated by Karen Gillow, seconded by Hugh Possingham. Zena accepted the position.

General Committee Members with no special duties: Robyn Mulder, Lynn Whitfield, Simon Murray, Robyn Mulder, David Kent, and Trevor Armstrong. Other general committee members were welcome to join over the course of the year.

All nominations were accepted unanimously and unopposed.

Meeting closed at 11:00 am.

Next meeting to be **Sunday August 27th 2023** at the red shed– bird walk at 6:30am.
Morning tea at 9:30am, General meeting at 10am.