Karawatha Forest Protection Society Inc.

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014**

Another year has passed with plenty of activity and challenges, not least for the dedicated volunteers. Mid-year we decided to move to bi-monthly meetings for a number of reasons:

- Much communication can now be done electronically
- Less impact on member's free time
- Allow for possible events during the non meeting month

### Development issues directly relevant to Karawatha Forest

• There are ongoing development issues with high-density low cost accommodation units on the land adjacent to the Islamic College. This is as yet unresolved.

#### Grants

- \$3,300 annual grant from Brisbane City Council
- \$300 grant from SEQC catchments that was handed over to bush care group via Dennis Kerr

### **Eco Discovery Centre**

The KFPS has remained in close liaison with BCC through Cr Kim Marx and Andrew Ensbey regarding the soon-to-be-constructed Eco Discovery Centre. The KFPS exact role in the facility is still to be determined, however we are assured of storage space within the centre and use of the meeting room facilities.

### Events

The society was represented at a number of community events in the year.

- In July we had our usual attendance at the Peaks to Point festival which was a very successful day
- The Karawatha Ward family day at Runcorn away from our usual location of Acacia Rd picnic area
- In July we again attended and were part of the Peak to Points festival which was very well attended

### **Guest Speakers**

- Andrew Ensbey attended a couple of meetings to talk about the EcoCentre
- We also had a presentation and talk on bats and their importance within the ecosystem

### **Society Events**

• We held two very successful walks from the Illaweena Street entrance in July, which were very well attended, informative and enjoyed by all.

- Perhaps the highlight of the year was a fantastic event held in Karawatha Forest in October with Dr Romane Cristescu and her Koala detecting dog Maya. This was both entertaining and informative as Maya demonstrated her ability to detect Koala habitats by identifying Koala 'poo'.
- Another social event involving KFPS led walks in the forest is planned for 14 December.

## Social Media

Our facebook page has continued to be used to share and promote relevant activities. Currently there are 126 likes, a 50% increase on last year, but we need many more.

### Quarry

The quarry within the forest has gained some media attention through Channel Seven news, the Southern Star and the Courier Mail. This has come about due to illegal bike activities that have been posted on social media. While one solution has been to drain the quarry and fill it in and turn it into a suitable natural environmental setting, council will not permit this and have committed to improved fencing to restrict quarry access.

### Membership and challenges

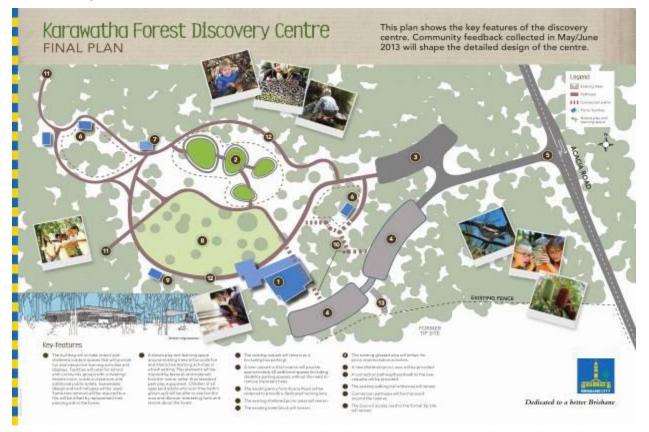
Like any voluntary organisation, KFPS faces numerous challenges. Part of this challenge is based around the need for more members (where possible), putting their 'hand up' to assist in the running of the society. We are a very inclusive society and welcome members, including new members, getting actively involved so as to ensure the viability of the society.

Thank you to all for your efforts in 2014, especially those on the committee and those who have been able to support our meetings through attendance.

I also acknowledge the cooperation and assistance as provided by the Brisbane City Council through the local Councillor, Cr Kim Marx and her Council office.

Regards

David Forde President Karawatha Forest Protection Society Inc



#### Eco Discovery Centre Draft Plan

Peaks to Points Festival at Oxley Common



Our Secretary, Paula Ross

Karawatha Family Fun Day at William Park, Runcorn (instead of our usual Acacia Rd Picnic area)



One of the Successful Guided Walking Groups on the Melaleuca Circuit in Karawatha Forest



Dr Romane Cristescu and her Koala-Detection Dog Maya

