

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

PHOTO GALLERY

Eco Discovery Centre Draft Plan

Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre FINAL PLAN

This plan shows the key features of the discovery centre. Community feedback collected in May/June 2013 will shape the detailed design of the centre.

Key-Features

- The building will include indoor and outdoor activities spaces that will provide fun and interactive learning activities and displays. Facilities will cater for school and community groups with a meeting/lecture room, indoor or outdoor and additional public toilets. Sustainable design and materials will be used. Items that are removed will be recycled or this will be a facility replacement over planning and the forest.
- A large play with learning space around existing trees and landscape fun and interactive learning activities in a bush setting. This element will be inspired by nature and materials found in nature rather than standard park play equipment. Children of all ages (at 8 adults who sign they don't smoke) will be able to explore the area and observe interesting facts and stories about the forest.
- The existing network will remain as a low-impact low-impact.
- A new network in this location will provide approximately 10 additional spaces including disability parking located without the need to remove any trees.
- The existing entry to Atala Road will be removed to provide a dedicated learning area.
- The existing pathway/parking areas will remain.
- The existing toilet block will remain.
- The existing grassed area will remain for picnic and outdoor activities.
- A new outdoor picnic area will be provided.
- A connector/pathway/footpath to the bus stop area will be provided.
- The existing walking/rambling area will remain.
- Car access pathways will be improved around the centre.
- The Council assets need to the former 50116 will remain.

Dedicated to a better Brisbane

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

