

# Karawatha Forest Protection Society Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015

Another year has passed with plenty of activities, not least for the dedicated volunteers. Our move in 2014 to bi-monthly meetings has been considered a success, not least due to the additional number of forest events we were able to commit to. Its all about adopting to "what suits our purpose" the best.

### 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

- \$4,015 annual grant from Brisbane City Council

### Eco Discovery Centre

At the time of writing, the much-anticipated Eco Discovery Centre will be just about completed. The KFPS remained in close liaison with BCC through Cr Kim Marx and Andrew Ensbey throughout the project. The KFPS is very appreciative in the manner in how this project has been undertaken. Our KFPS exact role in the facility is still to be determined, however we are still assured of storage space within the centre and use of the meeting room facilities.

### Society and Community Events

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

- December – Karawatha Forest trail walk.
- March – several members joined the SEQ Frogs group in a night hunt for cane toads in Karawatha Forest along the Wallum and Brushtail tracks.
- May – A stall at the Karawatha Ward family day at Sunnybank Hills.
- May - Professor Darryl Jones of Griffith University to give a walk-&-talk on animals and birds using the Compton Road land-bridge.
- September – A stall at the Sustainability Fair at the Gold Coast Griffith Uni campus.
- September – A well-attended Walk to the Duck Ponds as part of Bush Care's Major Day out.

### Guest Speakers

- Andrew Ensbey attended a couple of meetings to talk about the EcoCentre.
- Presentation from Vince Watego on bats and their importance within the ecosystem.
- Mel Macgregor Phd student at Griffith Uni, gave a presentation on land-bridges based on the Compton Road land-bridge and wildlife usage including predators.
- Tanya Pritchard, Conservation Officer at Queensland Trust for Nature, gave a presentation on Koala surveys in our area as well as possible research issues in Karawatha Forest.

### Social Media

Our facebook page has continued to be used to share and promote relevant activities. Currently there are 204 likes, a 70% increase on last year. While ideally we need as many as possible, our increase over the past couple of years has been encouraging.

## **Monthly Newsletter**

Our newsletter, very often the main link between our members and our activities, as continued mainly uninterrupted throughout the year. While numerous people have contributed, its success has been largely due to Corny with support from Paula.

## **Eco Report**

KFPS commissioned Ecosure Pty Ltd (Ecosure) to develop a Site Restoration Plan to enhance habitat for the Green-thighed Frog at the “duck ponds” within Karawatha.

The primary aim of the project is to:

Improve the health of the wetlands (and surrounds) within the project area, so that they are better able to support the green-thighed frog (as well as other native frogs, naturally occurring at the site)”.

This will be achieved by:

- ensuring appropriate native plant species are established in and around the wetlands, thereby enhancing the ecological function of the wetlands and improving frog habitat
- ensuring vegetated links are established that connect the wetlands to adjacent natural areas
- reducing habitat desirable to exotic pests (e.g. cane toads and mosquito fish) and thereby reducing the abundance of exotic pests that may pose a threat to the green- thighed frog (and other native fauna species)
- applying an effective weed control and maintenance regime using techniques and herbicides appropriate to the site
- ensuring native plants are encouraged to germinate and grow while planted stock establishes to a point where only minimal maintenance is required.

Currently the draft report is being prepared for a final discussion with Ecosure with recommended minor amendments. Once the report is finalised – expected to be in early 2016 – the report will be publically available.

## **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), members 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 the past year, especially those on the committee and those who have been able to support our meetings and events 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