

Friends of Lochiel Park President's Report – April 2022

A new committee was elected in April 2022. Thank you for the support of the FoLP committee members who have represented the interests of residents of Lochiel Park in working to improve and maintain the Lochiel Park environment and facilities for residents and the broader Campbelltown community. Thank you to Rob Brennan who retired from the committee in August having served on the FoLP committee since 2017 as Secretary. Under the FoLP constitution the duties of President and Secretary were combined until the 2022 AGM. Special thanks again go to Peter Larsson and Peter Stokes for seed collection and the propagation team who provided hundreds of plants in 2020-2021 for FoLP plantings in Lochiel Park in May - July 2021. Thank you to all the members who participated in watering and transplanting seedlings into growing pots. Thank you to Elia Iannucci who painted the seats and tables in the village square in time for Christmas on the Green. Thank you to the City of Campbelltown staff for their interest and support in working with FoLP to achieve sustainable biodiversity outcomes in Lochiel Park. CCC has also supplied mulch for working bees and removed green waste when requested after working bees.

- 54 Lochiel Park households joined as members of Friends of Lochiel Park in 2021-2022. The annual household membership fee was increased to \$20 providing the essential financial support for the ongoing work of FoLP. FoLP asks for your continuing support and renewal of membership next financial year. Thanks also to residents who gave donations in appreciation of the work done by FoLP volunteers at working bees.
- For the third year in row Lochiel Park was awarded a Green Flag Award and the new flag has replaced the first one which was attacked by sulphur crested cockatoos.
- Throughout the last 12 months FoLP has collaborated and engaged with CCC to develop a Lochiel Park Management Plan to clearly outline the areas of maintenance responsibility within Lochiel Park of various section of CCC departments and areas of responsibility for FoLP.
- In August 2021 there was a celebration of the contribution Robert Smith has made to the Lochiel Park community with the dedication of the Robert Tree (*Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*) by the Southern Wetland steps followed by a morning tea. The Grass tree was relocated from Robert's Garden by CCC, under the direction of Henry Haavisto.
- An upgraded first aid kit was donated to FoLP for working bees
- A secure enclosure has been constructed within the LPCG to house all FoLP equipment previously stored in some committee member's garages and the LPCG tool shed.
- FoLP has held regular working bees every month (23 working bees since the 2021 AGM) to continue to develop and maintain the Butterfly Garden, Lochiel Parkway and the Urban Forest grassland project. A big thank you goes to the members (*43 individual volunteers*) who have been involved in contributing 400+ volunteer hours at working bees since our April 2021 AGM and an additional 100 extra hours outside normal working bees.
- In November 2021 60 Year 6 students from Wilderness school volunteered to help FoLP weed in the Urban Forest as a community service project, and that made a significant impact on weed control.
- FoLP continued to work with CCC to mulch Lochiel Parkway, the Orchard and Riverbank Circuit to help weed control. Weed control in Lochiel Park is environmentally important and regular intensive hand weeding and weed spot spraying by FoLP along Lochiel Parkway has controlled the weed problem and improved the visual amenity. Special thanks to Andrew & Angela Trotter who are weed warriors around Lochiel Park.
- Planting continued along the southern end of Lochiel Parkway to the O-Bahn bridge. Over 600 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted in Lochiel Park during May - Aug 2021, including 150 plants (some orchids) from Green Adelaide which were planted in the Butterfly Garden and Kurna Food Garden in June 2021. Approximately 700 plants were planted in the grassland area purchased and donated from Kersbrook nursery.
- FoLP arranged the LP Christmas Bows and the community LP Christmas Party 2021 on the Village Green and despite the COVID-19 restrictions was attended by 60+ residents.
- FoLP appreciates the ongoing support of CCC and received a \$187 Small Community Grant to publish a Lochiel Park Community Welcome Leaflet. This was distributed to all households in December. A big thank you must go to Andrew who coordinated and followed this idea through to completion.

- FoLP successfully applied for a grant in 2020 from Green Adelaide to support the re-establishment of a native grassland meadow in the Urban Forest over two years. Ann Prescott has continued to support and guide the project with her extensive knowledge of Adelaide Plains grassland habitat. Thank you to Di Sullivan who has co-ordinated this project from the beginning and to the FoLP volunteers who have hand-weeded this area.
- The FoLP web site was upgraded during the year and thanks go to Bevan for his ongoing work in maintaining this community portal.

The FoLP committee has continued to respond to issues raised by residents throughout the year:

- FoLP has continued to follow up concerns regarding some of the orchard trees and watering was improved. The FoLP committee continues to be concerned at the stripping of fruit from trees just as they ripen, and the LP community does not benefit from the work done by FoLP volunteers in maintaining this area.
- In response to community safety concerns, over the last few years CCC has repaired and improved the lighting along the Central Walkway and in the near future the northern end of the walkway lighting will finally be upgraded. Over three years the repair and upgrade of the lighting from the LP Village Green to Lochend House will have been completed by CCC.
- Line marking throughout Lochiel Park was completed by CCC contractors in May 2021 and FoLP requested that those parts missed due to vegetation overgrowth be revisited. FoLP cleared all the vegetation back from the road edges and the missed sections were clearly marked later in the year.
- FoLP raised community concerns regarding the health of trees along Lochiel Parkway and CCC replaced and planted more trees along Parkway in 2021.
- FoLP has informed CCC and the State Government that feral pigeons continue to present an ongoing health problem in Lochiel Park. The State government has not responded to correspondence regarding pigeon control across the metropolitan area. Many households in LP have implemented their own deterrent and control measures.
- Artwork on the Southern Wetland tank was one of the public art works areas considered by CCC for tender in the 2021-2022 CCC Budget but did not proceed.
- CCC removed one of the timber seats in the Southern Wetland area due to white ant infestation.
- Garden bed edges constructed of sleepers at the entrance to the car park were removed due to a white ant infestation and replaced with timber logs.
- The FoLP committee encouraged all LP residents to respond to the CCC Dog Park surveys throughout the consultation process.