

## Friends of Lochiel Park President's Report – April 2023

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. Special thanks again go to Peter Larsson and Peter Stokes for seed collection and Di Sullivan for leading LPCG propagation team who have provided hundreds of seedling plants in 2022 for FoLP plantings in Lochiel Park June-August 2022. Thank you to all the members who participated in watering and transplanting seedlings into growing pots. 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. We are also grateful for the support of Henry Haavisto and other CCC staff members who have attended FoLP committee meetings.

- 55 Lochiel Park households joined as members of Friends of Lochiel Park in 2022/23. The annual household membership fee provides the essential financial support for the ongoing work of FoLP. FoLP asks for your continuing support and renewal of membership next financial year. FoLP is also grateful to residents who gave donations in appreciation of the work done by FoLP volunteers at working bees.
- For the fourth year in row Lochiel Park was awarded a Green Flag Award and the new flag was raised after the March 2023 working bee
- Throughout the last 12 months FoLP has collaborated and continued to engage 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. This has finally been completed.
- FoLP has held regular working bees every month (11 working bees since the 2022 AGM) to continue to develop and maintain the Butterfly Garden, Lochiel Parkway and Kaurna Food Garden A big thank you goes to the members (*32 individual volunteers*) who have been involved in contributing 300 volunteer hours at regular monthly working bees since our April 2022 AGM and many additional volunteer hours outside working bee times.
- 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 continue to be weed warriors around Lochiel Park.
- Targeted planting continued along the southern end of Lochiel Parkway to the O-Bahn bridge. In the 2022 planting season over 700 plants from the LPCG and 150 plants from **Green Adelaide** were planted around Lochiel Park. In 2022 the support and advice of Jacob Lemon CCC Biodiversity Team Leader helped FoLP plan 2023 seedling planting to widen the diversity of plant species in Lochiel Park
- FoLP arranged the LP Christmas Bows and the community LP Christmas Party 2022 on the Village Green and was attended by over 70 residents.
- The FoLP web site was upgraded during the year and thanks go to Bevan for his ongoing work in maintaining this community portal.
- CCC provided two wheelie bins for FoLP deposit container recycling. FoLP allocated funds to provide to recycling lids for the bins with padlocks. This has raised over \$670 for FoLP funds. Thank you to all the residents who have supported this environmental fund raising.
- In July-August over 100 trees were planted along the western wetland overflow channel to hopefully prevent gully erosion along that water channel.
- FoLP held a Koala information evening in the Ripples Art Shed that was well attended and FoLP purchased Koala drinking basins that have been placed strategically throughout the environs of Lochiel Park.

### **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 because LP community does not benefit from the work done by FoLP volunteers in maintaining this area.

- In response to community safety concerns, in July 2022 CCC completed repairs and upgrading of the lighting on the northern end of the central walkway. Over three years the repair and upgrade of the lighting from the LP Village Green to Lochend House carpark has been completed by CCC.
- FoLP raised community concerns regarding the health of some trees along Lochiel Parkway and CCC has replaced and planted more trees along Parkway in 2022.
- Artwork on the Southern Wetland tank was one of the public artwork areas considered by CCC in 2021/22 and a recent survey has shown a range of submitted designs (April 2023) for community feedback
- Andrew Trotter and Stephen Scott-Hoy, on behalf of the FoLP committee, initiated cricket social events on the Riverbank Circuit lawns and in 2023 will develop these activities to contribute to LP community well-being.

### **The Grassland Meadow Project**

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. (October 2020 – October 2022). Ann Prescott, eminent SA Grassland botanist, has continued to support and guide the project with her extensive knowledge of Adelaide Plains grassland habitat. Di Sullivan, who has co-ordinated this project from the beginning, has recruited a wide range of skills from the Campbelltown community to document the grassland progress. The Frog identification evenings held in the northern wetland brought a closer understanding of the importance of grasslands for frog habitat. Thank you to Peter Stokes and Bevan Bates who have worked on a data base to record planting for the grassland. FoLP committed \$700 of extra funding for grassland seedling plantings in 2022. When the grant was acquitted to **Green Adelaide** the scale of the commitment, community engagement and volunteering was evident.

- 33 scheduled working bees were organised
- 267 volunteer attendances
- 521 volunteer hours at the working bees

Over and above these hours volunteers went to the grassland when they had spare time, looked at what needed to be done, and followed the Nike principal – *Just Do It*.

In June 2022 as a result of reporting community engagement on the grassland to Green Adelaide an article appeared in the Green Adelaide e-news and FoLP received \$700 worth of planting equipment as a prize. Di and her grassland committee developed a longer-term strategic plan for the future management of the Grassland Meadow and central to that was a new idea of Circle Champions – volunteers who commit to personally looking after a circle area of planting in the grassland; managing weed control in that area; maintaining inter-tussock zones; watering new plantings if required. The plan will be reviewed at the end of spring 2023. The plan also included ideas for attracting educators, students, citizen scientists and environmentalists to be involved in the grassland evolution. Central to the plan was volunteer development, cataloguing and photographic record keeping.

This Draft plan was presented to a FoLP committee meeting in October and endorsed as a vision for the future. Green Adelaide will be providing \$2000 worth of 'core needs' funding to FoLP for the 2023 planting season – consisting of 200 hardwood stakes and approximately 1000 plants half for the grassland and half for wider biodiversity Lochiel Park planting.

In July 2022 FoLP applied for **Green Adelaide** grant funding for suitable signage to explain the environmental importance of native grassland meadow areas; the significance of grassland in Kaurna culture; and the production of an educational leaflet. In November 2022 FoLP was informed that the grant application had been successful, and this project has to be completed by October 2024.

Lochiel Park is an exciting place to live. The first FoLP AGM was held on Saturday 10th December 2011. I am sure all those present, eleven who are still Lochiel Park residents, can look back at what has been achieved by thousands of volunteer hours, a strong purposeful relationship with CCC, personal commitment and love for the City of Campbelltown, so that all residents of Campbelltown can enjoy a beautiful urban open space. Let the Green Flag fly high over Lochiel Park for years to come.