

Friends of Lochiel Park – President’s Report 2023/24

Friends of Lochiel Park depends on the organisation and efforts of its hard-working committee and volunteers throughout the year to achieve the planned environmental outcomes for residents of Campbelltown throughout Lochiel Park. The award of another Green Flag in 2023 is testament to the work of FoLP volunteers over more than a decade, working alongside Campbelltown City Council, to achieve the outcomes of a beautifully cared for parkland area enjoyed by Campbelltown residents.

Thanks for the work of the Secretary, Angela Trotter, and the Treasurer, Andrew Trotter throughout the year and the committee elected at our 2023 AGM – Stephen Scott-Hoy, Carol Cox-DeVore, Bevan Bates and to Peter Stokes, co-opted to fill a committee vacancy during the year. Thanks to Carol for organising morning teas after each working bee. Thanks also to Henry Haavisto from CCC who attends our committee meetings and advises us on Council issues and also for organising mulch for working bees.

Thanks for the work of Di Sullivan who had given leadership for the Grassland Meadow Project and the wider group of Circle Champions who have brought this to near completion in the past year. FoLP also acknowledges the encouragement and support of Green Adelaide for the supply of approximately 500 seedlings to increase the diversity of plantings in the Grassland and the grant funding for appropriate signage which will be completed in 2024.

Thanks for the leadership and work of Peter Stokes and Peter Larsson and other volunteers in the Community Garden for the propagation of native seedlings planted out during 2023.

Apart from FoLP volunteers at our regular monthly working bees there are many FoLP members who regularly walk around Lochiel Park picking up discarded litter and also pulling weeds that keeps the place looking cared for. Thank you to those who regularly wash down the mosaics adjacent to their homes thereby maintaining the artistic contribution of Ripples members to environmentally inspired art throughout Lochiel Park.

The Green Flag report identified some aspects of Lochiel Park that still needed improvement and FoLP has worked with CCC to make suggestions regarding wayfaring signage and repairing existing signage. Our thanks go to Campbelltown City Council for the mural painting on the water tank in Lochiel Park which has greatly enhanced the southern vista over the wetland.

Another innovation inspired by committee members was to introduce regular community building social events with cricket matches and pétanque on the lawned areas in Lochiel Park. These events combined with the highly successful Christmas on the Green have been well supported and contributed to improving social interaction between Lochiel Park residents.

Recognising the age profile of FoLP volunteers the committee cancelled two working bees during the past year - heavy rainfall and extreme heat – to care for the health and safety of FoLP volunteers.

These are some of the highlights and work of FoLP committee during the past year:

- 53 financial member households (almost half of the LP residences) who support FoLP financially
- Over 700 volunteer hours contributed by FoLP volunteers
- Clearly defined areas of care for maintenance by FoLP volunteers
- 40+ individuals attending working bees over the year

- Revision of the 2011 FoLP Constitution to reflect current established organisational practices
- Cool burning trial in the grassland to germinate seeds and control weeds
- FoLP becoming a community member of Trees for Life SA
- An experimental batch of 30 Stakes painted and Dymo taped to identify specific plant species and the intention to further develop this if it proves longevity of plant signage
- Agreement with CCC to name the Central Walkway from Riverbank Circuit to Lochend House – Margaret’s Walk
- Community evening talks on Koalas, Urban Reptiles and Micro Bats
- An organised walk around Lochiel Park between FoLP and Council Staff to identify maintenance issues
- Koala watering bowls distributed around Lochiel Park
- Meetings with LMH Consultant Lesley Humphreys regarding a Lochiel Park Recreation Master Plan
- Audit of signage around Lochiel Park and preparing report to Council in progress
- Identification of Caltrop around LP and reporting this noxious weed to Council

In the spirit of the Kaurna people who cared for and maintained these lands before white settlement Friends of Lochiel Park will continue to work alongside Campbelltown City Council to protect, restore, maintain and improve the Lochiel Park environment for the benefit of Campbelltown residents and future generations.

Willie Smyth

President, Friends of Lochiel Park