



Friends of Lochiel Park – President’s Report 2024/2025

The past year has been a highly active year for Friends of Lochiel Park Inc (FoLP). Thank you to all the FoLP volunteers who have regularly turned up to our monthly working bees throughout the past year. FoLP depends on the efforts of its hard-working committee and volunteers to achieve the planned outcomes for improving the environment around Lochiel Park. During the year, the committee has responded to the age profile of our volunteers and has cancelled working bees when extreme heat has been forecast. At the suggestion of our volunteers we have shortened working bees and in the summer had an earlier starting time. The award of another International Green Flag 2024/25, 6 years in a row, stands as testament to the collaboration between FoLP and Campbelltown City Council (CCC) to achieve a beautifully cared for parkland area enjoyed by Campbelltown residents and visitors.

A big thank you goes to the FoLP committee who have supported the vision and work of FoLP through the past Year. Each member of the committee brings a variety of skills and background interests to blend into furthering the aims of FoLP. Thank you for the work of the Secretary, Angela Trotter, the Treasurer, Andrew Trotter, and the committee elected at our 2024 AGM – Bevan Bates, Carol Cox-DeVore, Peter Stokes, and Stephen Scott-Hoy. Thanks to Carol for organising morning teas after each working bee and to Stephen and Andrew for organising community building social events – cricket and pétanque. FoLP Christmas on the Green was a well-attended community event in December and likewise Easter Sunday morning gathering on the green organised by Bevan. Thanks to Bevan for keeping our web page up to date. Thanks to Peter for regularly attending CCC Council meetings and keeping us up to date with its decisions that impact Lochiel Park.

Thanks to Peter Larsson and Peter Stokes and a team of volunteers for all their work in seed collection and propagation in the Lochiel Park Community Garden which supplies FoLP with a range of seedlings encouraging biodiversity in Lochiel Park. Thanks for the work of Peter Stokes and Di Sullivan to bring the Native Grassland Meadow signage project to final conclusion with the signs to be installed in the near future. We are also grateful for the support of PB Visual Communications and Paul Montesi for their patience as the signs have been developed and for a discount to keep the cost within our grant budget. Thanks to Steve Donnellan for finding interesting speakers for community evening talks on fauna diversity in Lochiel Park and also to Steve who has supported the work of FoLP by adopting the area of the northern wetland overflow channel through weed control and watering new plantings. Similarly thanks to Dave Parker who has adopted Brookway Lane. There are many unmentioned FoLP volunteers who week by week walk around Lochiel Park - picking up litter, pulling out weeds, washing down the mosaics, reporting dumping, reporting faulty lighting - which all contributes to Lochiel Park looking cared for throughout.

The annual Green Flag assessment identifies successes, strengths and weaknesses that need to be improved. We acknowledge the support of our Council Mayor and local ward councillors – Jill Whittaker, Jagdish Lakhani and Matthew Noble – and Council staff in being receptive to supporting improvements in Lochiel Park. Wayfaring signage for Lochiel Park is a work in progress by Council and should be completed this financial year which will greatly help strangers find their way through Lochiel Park. Other initiatives brought to Council by FoLP include the installation of a drinking fountain at the children’s play and half-court basketball area; the installation of an automated external defibrillator (AED) in Lochiel Park on the Lochiel Park Community Garden fence; and support for the installation of a sculpture at the Southern wetlands. FoLP acknowledges the support of a Campbelltown City Council Major Grant of \$2,000 which has enabled FoLP to purchase a new trailer to support the work of FoLP volunteers and also our sister organisations in Lochiel Park – Lochiel Park Community Garden and Ripples. Thanks to Henry Haavisto from CCC who has attended our committee meetings and supported us to connect with Council staff, organised mulch deliveries and responded to reports of fallen trees and branches for removal in the park area. Thanks for the support of Council biodiversity officer Jackson Roshier who has advised FoLP with regards to developing a plan to improve plant biodiversity throughout Lochiel Park.

FoLP acknowledges the support of Green Adelaide in supplying seedlings and stakes for plantings in Lochiel Park and the support and encouragement of staff particularly in relation to the Native Grassland Meadow.

Other highlights of the involvement of FoLP throughout the year include:

- 57 Member households who support FoLP financially
- Over \$700 raised from deposit recycling for FoLP funds
- 35+ different individuals attending working bees during the past year
- 350+ volunteer hours contributed by FoLP members
- Over six hundred seedlings planted last season in Lochiel Park
- The Lochiel Park Recreation Master Plan being endorsed by Council
- Community evening talks on urban reptiles, birds and butterflies
- Identifying calthrop around Lochiel Park and reporting location to Council
- Lighting along the central walkway in progress for repairs

In the spirit of the Kaurna people who cared for the Adelaide Plains before white settlement, Friends of Lochiel Park has committed to work alongside Campbelltown City Council to protect, restore, maintain and improve the Lochiel Park environment for the benefit of all Campbelltown residents and future generations.

Willie Smyth
President, Friends of Lochie Park