



Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc.

# Annual Report



2017



Granard Wetlands Restoration



Photo by Paul Campbell

## President's Address

Welcome to all of you who gather here to help celebrate our 21st AGM. This was my inaugural year as President, independently chairing Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) Management Committee monthly meetings and most general meetings. It is at these monthly meetings where decisions are made which aim to improve the environment for local communities, and at the bi-monthly general meetings where interesting presentations were delivered plus relevant issues raised.

You here are all part of our OCCA team of staff, committees, volunteers, sponsors, partners and supporters who network together to achieve worthwhile objectives for the betterment of our Oxley Creek catchment, associated habitat corridors and local communities.

Thanks to you here tonight who are all part of our OCCA team of staff, committees, volunteers, sponsors, partners and supporters who network together to achieve worthwhile objectives for the betterment of our Oxley Creek catchment, associated habitat corridors and local communities via participation in OCCA programs, activities, meeting and workshops.

I hope that many of you are able to continue to support OCCA and in particular commit to help organise and participate in the Peaks to Points Festival being held from 14-29 July 2018.

I, along with Deputy President Lynn Whitfield and Secretary David Kent, represented OCCA at monthly Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN) meetings. BCN members represent all the creek catchments feeding into the Brisbane River and these meetings help to coordinate activities as well as support rehabilitation of Brisbane River's riparian and surrounding areas. I also supported other organisations through participation in many meetings, seminars and workshops e.g. participating in BCN's Reducing Urban Nutrient Pollution in Moreton Bay and Strategic Planning workshops - the latter of which helped us progress OCCA's Strategic Plan. I also attended Brisbane City Council's combined Habitat Brisbane, Environmental Education, Land for Wildlife, and Creek Catchment Officers training sessions plus regular Brisbane Biodiversity Seminars, as well as participated in OCCA's CreekCare team activities which helps coordinate BushCare group projects.

A highlight of my year was the Our Catchment Tour on 4 June from Oxley Creek mouth to the Sergeant Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve (SDSMR) on Johnson Road, the boundary with Logan City Council. The tour was organised by the Creek Catchment Officer Donna Edwards, OCCA member Beryl Roberts and others and took in the challenging erosion at SDSMR, interesting viewing of Benarrawa Park Bush/CreekCare site and the Oxley Creek Common, all accompanied by relevant commentaries.

Another highlight was my award as the only Environmental Recipient of 35 people receiving Moreton Region Australia Day Award' in recognition of your valued commitment

to our community' on 26 January 2017, an event which was especially celebrated by my extended family and friends.

This year has seen the establishment of the Oxley Creek Transformation Corporation to fulfil the Lord Mayor's promise of \$100M over 20 years for environmental improvement and development of 17km of Oxley Creek, from the mouth to Johnson Road. OCCA's Executive Officer Anne Clarke, was appointed to its Board as a community representative. Interested persons can consult the Transformation team website at [www.oxleycreek.com.au](http://www.oxleycreek.com.au), subscribe to their email newsletter, and attend public consultations.



OCCA made submissions to Brisbane City Plan amendments via the Local Government Infrastructure Plan to support Brisbane City Council's \$16.7M acquisition of the Oxley Creek Common, Rocklea from the Queensland Government, and new parkland on the Oxley Secondary College site for environmental, recreation and sporting use. Other needs in the lower catchment are for new bikeways/pathways along Sherwood Road, improved, safe crossings on Sherwood Road over the railway and Oxley Creek, and a culvert or larger stormwater pipes to avoid frequent flooding by Pennywort Creek across Pratten Street and Cliveden Avenue.

Finally, I express my appreciation to the members of the OCCA Management Committee and all OCCA team helpers and participants at various general meetings, plantings, working bees, weed management workshops, festivals, presentations to other groups, contributions to social media, the website [www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au](http://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au) and other communication activities. Thanks also to Local, State and Federal representatives for their support and grants that led to OCCA, Oxley Creek and its tributaries being upheld with increasingly high regard.

**Trevor Armstrong, President**

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## 1. THE CATCHMENT OF OXLEY CREEK

Oxley Creek, a tributary of the Brisbane River, drains a catchment area of 26 000 ha (260 km<sup>2</sup>) within the local government areas of Logan City, Brisbane City and a small area of Ipswich City Councils, within south-east Queensland.

The source of Oxley Creek is on the north-eastern slopes of Mt Perry in the area of Flinders Peak. The creek runs for 70 km in a north easterly direction and flows into the Brisbane River at Tennyson/Graceville. Its tributaries on the east, from south to north, are Sheep Station Gully, Stable Swamp Creek, Moolabin Creek and Rocky Water Holes. On the west, from south to north, there is Crewes Creek which joins Oxley south of Edwards Bridge, Blunder Creek with its tributary Hanleys Creek, along with Boss, Farley and Ordance Creeks. Hanleys Creek joins Blunder Creek near Bowhill Road, and Blunder Creek joins Oxley Creek, south of the Ipswich Motorway within the Archerfield Wetlands area. Little Doris Creek, Mayfly Creek and Pennywort Creek flow into Oxley Creek at Oxley and Corinda respectively.

The southern section of elevated land in the headwaters of the catchment, is largely covered by dry forest, and in parts, is relatively sparsely populated. However, as the grazing and turf farms are being replaced by rural residential land, more intense urban development is increasing. More road, rail, power and water distribution infrastructure is being imposed but fortunately, there remain substantial areas of undisturbed vegetation, particularly within the Greenbank Military Training Area (GMTA).

The middle part of the catchment, immediately north of Johnson Road, contains the tenuously vegetated linkages of the Flinders-Greenbank-Karawatha (FGK) Corridor. This Corridor includes a mosaic of lands under a variety of ownerships, tenures and jurisdictions including the major bushland areas of Flinders Peak, Mount Perry, White Rock, GMTA, Forestdale, Larapinta and Parkinson, together with the residential and industrial lands of Larapinta, Heathwood and Forest Lake. Moving east from Parkinson, for the FGK Corridor to be continuous, crossings need to occur over the Logan Motorway and Beaudesert Road before the Corridor reaches Karawatha Forest.

As part of the Brisbane City Council's 2017 "Oxley Creek Transformation" planning process, the catchment area from Johnson Road along Paradise Road to Motorway Business Park, now called the *'Sergeant Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve'* (SDSMR) will be included in a recreational area stretching from this reserve across to the "Glider Forest" and then further east to Karawatha Forest. This large area will then be opened to the public for suitable recreational purposes. The SDSMR is already providing a haven for bird watchers.

Blunder Creek rises within the GMTA, flows under Johnson Road and then through Brisbane South Industrial Park and the suburbs of Heathwood, Doolandella, and Parkwood. These suburbs are now being developed along with much of Pallara north of Brookbent Road.



There are important vegetated links between Blunder and Oxley Creeks in the once-rural areas of Pallara and Willawong. These areas are losing much of their rural focus as development slowly takes over. Retention of the vegetation is extremely important, not only for connections but to stabilise the fragile waterway edges. It is now more important than ever to retain the vegetated links between Blunder and Oxley Creeks. Oxley Creek in this area is subject to serious erosion and repair and rehabilitation of the remaining sand mining areas is needed. South and North of Johnson Road, serious headward erosion is occurring and mitigation of the sand movement is necessary.

Industry is now established around the old Willawong landfill and Transfer Station. The exhausted sand extraction sites along Paradise Road at Larapinta are now trading as Motorway Business Park and Radius Industrial. A new residential area is being developed for Paradise Wetlands. Further north, the BMI Group Property Development and Resource Recovery, along with Warapar Resources, and TransPacific Industries, are repositioning their properties in accordance with changes in practice and planning regulations. Portions of these properties along with the decommissioned Inala Sewage Treatment Plant, and the ecologically valuable Archerfield Wetlands should provide improved biodiversity outcomes for this section of the catchment. Other suburbs completing this central or middle section of the catchment are Calamvale, Algester, Coopers Plains, Acacia Ridge, Archerfield with its important airport, Forest Lake, Doolandella, Inala, Durack and parts of Oxley.

The northern part of the catchment stretching from the Ipswich Motorway to the mouth of the creek at Graceville/Tennyson, has vitally important flood plain areas with the Brisbane Boys College Sporting Fields, St Aidan's School's 'Ambiwerra', Gregory Terrace Playing Fields, Brisbane Golf Course, the Oxley Creek Common, the Brisbane Markets, and the augmented Oxley Sewage Treatment Plant plus the major industrial area of Rocklea. To the east, the highly urbanised and in part industrial areas of Sunnybank, Coopers Plains, Salisbury, Acacia Ridge, Tennyson and Moorooka are within the catchment. On the west, the suburbs of Oxley, Corinda, Sherwood, Graceville and Chelmer complete the catchment.

Oxley Creek and its tributaries are recognised for their significant riparian vegetation forming important local linkages, as well as to the Brisbane River. The connections via the tributaries of Moolabin and Rocky Water Holes to Toohey Forest give the catchment a common eastern boundary with Norman and Bulimba Creek catchments, along the southern side of the Brisbane River. Moolabin Creek, an important tributary flowing west from Toohey Forest is suffering from serious weed invasion and its banks also need care and attention.

To the west of the Oxley catchment is Wolston and Centenary Catchments with whom OCCA enjoys a collaborative relationship. To enhance the potential of the vegetated connections along the southern side of the Brisbane River, the OCCA initiative of hosting a biennial 'Peaks to Points' Festival, aims at bringing together all the community, catchment and environment groups on the southern side of the Brisbane River to celebrate their waterways, natural areas and vegetated connections.

***Anne Clarke, Executive Officer***

## 2. OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION

### 2.1. HISTORY

In 1995 members of the Oxley Creek Environment Group Inc. and the Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc. approached the Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG) (then part of the Department of Environment and Heritage) to establish an Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) program in the Oxley Creek catchment, and were granted permission to trial a pilot urban ICM structure. BRMG received Commonwealth funding under the National Landcare Program (later the Natural Heritage Trust), to establish a Catchment Coordinating Committee and to prepare and develop plans for the catchment. With the support of BRMG, Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council and (then) Beaudesert Shire Council the Committee commissioned a State of the Oxley Creek Catchment Report and Water and Land-Use Impact and Management Analysis. This was then followed by intensive consultation and planning culminating in the release of the Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan early in 1999.

BRMG (now Healthy Waterways and Catchments) helped fund a Catchment Coordinator up until June 2000. Since then the Committee has relied on successful grant applications along with a number of educational and corporate programs and profit from Biodiversity Services, to employ its staff.

The Association was guided initially by a fully endorsed Catchment Coordinating Committee under the ICM Program. It is now overseen by an elected Management Committee. OCCA is an Incorporated Association and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. In 2006, OCCA was also endorsed for charity tax concessions, namely Income Tax Exemption, GST Concessions and FBT rebate.

Initially, the Association was located in Brisbane city centre, then from September 1999 to May 2001 it operated from an office at the Rocklea Research Farm, and then in rooms generously provided by Brisbane Markets Limited (BML). The Association is now well established in a house at Coopers Plains, courtesy of Consolidated Properties Group. In 2017 OCCA's Biodiversity Services relocated all its vehicles and storage containers to the Catchment Centre.



## 2.2. MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

### **Mission Statement**

To protect and enhance the natural environment and resources of the catchment of Oxley Creek by partnering, educating, advocating and participating in catchment management.

### **Objectives**

1. Partner with community organisations, businesses, industries and governments to further the mission of the Association.
2. Educate the community of residents, businesses, public institutions (including schools) and governments in the sustainable land-use and conservation practices needed in the catchment, recognising the interactions between land, waterways, vegetation and wildlife;
3. Advocate sustainable land-use and conservation practices needed in the catchment recognising the interactions between land, waterways, vegetation and wildlife; and
4. Encourage community participation in catchment management activities.

### **Strategic direction**

The initial Strategic Plan was finalised in December 2014. The Plan identifies priorities and goals for OCCA over the next 4 years around our objectives and key programs and will be reviewed and revised annually to reflect changing circumstances.

## 2.3. MEMBERSHIP

The Association currently has 88 financial members and 4 life members as follows:

Life Members	4
Community Groups	1
Schools	1
Corporate	5
Gold Members	4
Individual and Household	77

OCCA reaches a wider audience through its bimonthly Newsletter 'Oxley Overflow' which goes to more than 600 recipients, its regular email "News and Events" update which goes to a similar number of people and organisations, its Facebook page which has nearly 612 "likes", and through the website, its participating groups, and the many other activities and projects organised by OCCA throughout the catchment and along the south side of the Brisbane River.

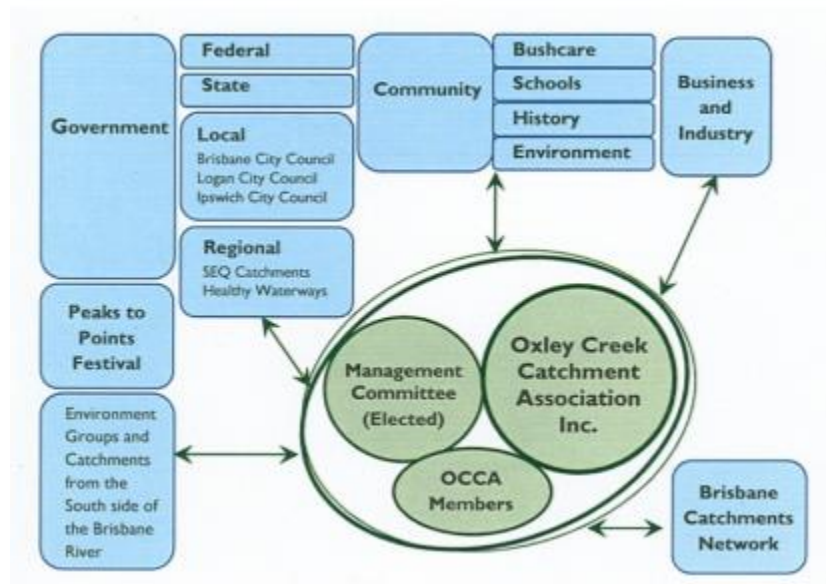
***Susan Hodgson, Business Support Officer***

## 2.4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Management Committee remains central to OCCA's performance. It helps to guide OCCA's activities and support the staff.

OCCA's staff (some of who are paid and others provide their services on a volunteer basis) comprises:

- Anne Clarke – Executive Officer – responsible for OCCA's day-to-day operations and supervision of office administration and staff
- Phil Gunasekara – Catchment Program Manager – responsible for grant applications and project management
- Karen Toms, Emma Barry, and Camilla Duff-Burford – Partnerships and Education Managers – responsible for administration of the CreekWatch, Education, and Corporate Volunteering Programs
- Chris Jensen – Biodiversity Services Manager
- Susan Hodgson – Business Support Officer and Book keeper – responsible for all office administration and for maintaining OCCA's financial records



OCCA has established alliances with organisations with a similar focus. These include the Brisbane Catchments Network, Healthy Waterways and Catchments, and our neighbours in Wolston and Centenary Catchments, and Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee.

OCCA also works with Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich local governments through the Oxley Creek Taskforce and the Planning Reference Group in Brisbane City Council and

the Natural Environmental Communication Forum established by Logan City Council, and with Ipswich City Council on the Oxley Creek – Bremer River Twinning Project.

The Management Committee, including the Executive made up of the President, Deputy President, Secretary and Treasurer, was elected from the members elected to the Management Committee at the AGM in November 2016. Attendance at the 11 meetings held since the 2016 AGM is shown in the table below. The commitment of committee members is appreciated. Donna Edwards, BCC Creek Catchment officer, also attended six meetings.

Member	No. of meetings attended	Apologies
Trevor Armstrong, President	11	0
Lynn Whitfield, Deputy President	6	5
David Kent, Secretary	10	1
Nadia Mislin, Treasurer	5	6
Beryl Roberts	9	2
Anne Clarke	8	3
Phil Gunasekara	5	6
Chris Jensen	8	3
Larissa Mar Fan	7	4

As a volunteer organisation, OCCA continues to seek members to be involved in the work of the Association and its various working groups as well as the activities of the Management Committee.

***Dave Kent, Secretary***



## 2.5. PARTNERSHIPS

### INDUSTRY

Absorb Environmental Solutions • Archerfield Airport Corporation • Brisbane Markets Limited • BOC (A Member of the Linde Group) • BMI Resource Recovery • Bunnings • Brisbane Golf Club • Coca Cola Amatil • CSR • Dulux Rocklea • Energex • Graceville Apartments • Holcim Pty Ltd • RACQ Insurance • rockPRESS – Rocklea Pressed Metal • Sims Metal Management • Suez • The Construction Training Centre • Warapar P/L

### GOVERNMENT

Brisbane City Council • Construction Training Centre • Department of Environment and Heritage Protection • Department of Housing and Public Works • Department of the Environment • Green Army • Ipswich City Council • Logan City Council • SkillsTech

### COMMUNITY

Benarrawa Community Group • Benarrawa Bushcare Group • Brisbane Catchments Network • Brisbane Regional Environment Council • Bulimba Creek Catchment • Cliveden Avenue Bushcare Group • Conservation Volunteers Australia • Coopers Plains History Group • Custodians of Francis Outlook • Forestdale Bushcare Group • Friends of Sherwood Arboretum • Friends of Oxley Creek Common • Gaddes Park Bushcare Group • Greenbank Rural Fire Brigade • Healthy Waterways • Karawatha Forest Protection Society • Kev Hooper Park Bushcare Group • Koala Park Community Garden • Landcare Australia • Les Atkinson Park Bushcare Group • Moorooka Greening • Nosworthy Park Bushcare Group • Oxley Creek Environment Group Inc. • Pamphlett Sea Scouts • Pennywort Creek Bushcare Group • Queensland Landcare • Queensland Water and Landcarers • Richlands Inala and Suburbs History Group • Rikki Bailey Park Bushcare Group • Rocky Water Holes Bushcare Group • SEQ Catchments • Spring Mountain Residents Association • Spring Mountain Reserve Bushcare Group • Strickland Terrace Park Bushcare Group • Wildlife Queensland • Wolston and Centenary Catchments

### EDUCATION

Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc. • Toohey Forest Environment Education Centre • Australian International Islamic College • Brisbane Boys College • Corinda State High School • Durack State School • Greenbank State School • Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Darra • Rocklea State School • St Aidan's Anglican Girls School • St Joseph's Primary School, Corinda • St Marks Catholic Primary School • St Margaret's Anglican Girls' School, Ascot • St. Peter Claver College, Riverview • St. Pius X Catholic School • St. Thomas More College, Sunnybank • TAFE Queensland • The Murri School, Acacia Ridge • Watson Road State School

## 3. REPORTS

### 3.1. GENERAL MEETINGS

OCCA continues to organise four General Meetings each year on the fourth Tuesday of the months of February, April, June and August where invited speakers discuss environmental and related topics of general interest. The meetings also outline current OCCA activities. There is also a guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting in November. All these meetings are open to members and the general public. The meetings take place at the Red Shed, Oxley Creek Common, Rocklea, and are followed by refreshments and opportunity for networking. All presentations are available on the 'Publications and Presentations' section of the OCCA website [www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au](http://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au)

November (AGM) – Dr Samantha Lloyd of the SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium talked about “Fire Ecology in the Australian Landscape” in particular how fire, and how species respond to fire, has shaped our environment.

February – Matt Cecil, Senior Project Officer, Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, talked about gliders, the Glider Protection Network, and the outcomes of the bi-annual glider monitoring program and the factors that affect nest box occupancy.

April - Andy Hornbuckle of SPEL Environmental, gave a talk on 'SPEL Floating Wetlands' in which he talked about the benefits of using floating wetlands as a water treatment option.

June – Kaine Johnson of the Wilderness Society spoke on 'The Wilderness Society: Working with communities to get the land clearing legislation outcomes we all want'

August – Piet Filet (Convenor Flood Community of Practice) and James Davidson (Architect) spoke about 'Building water management resilience through inter-connected catchments in times of droughts and floods'

***Phil Gunasekara, Catchment Program Manager***

### 3.2. ADVOCACY

In 2016/2017 OCCA made a submission to the draft SEQ Regional Plan highlighting the need to increase and protect natural areas within the urban footprint, provide additional funding for the long term purchase and maintenance of local and regional open space assets within urban areas, identify and protect areas under particular threat including creek frontages, the marine frontage and tidal wetlands, and create and protect biodiversity corridors to allow species movement. The lack of specific actions and targets and uncertainty on the roles of State and local governments were also seen as barriers to successful implementation of the Regional Plan.

OCCA is represented on the following forums:

- *Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN)*

Trevor Armstrong, Lynn Whitfield and Dave Kent represented OCCA on the BCN. The Bremer River Network is now a member of BCN as a result of OCCA's Oxley Creek – Bremer River Twinning Project. BCN organised a number of workshops addressing *Reducing Urban Nutrient Pollution in Moreton Bay* and *Strategic Planning*.

- *Environmental Advisory Committee, Department of Defence, Greenbank*

Chris Jensen and/or Anne Clarke contributed to meetings of the Environmental Advisory Committee along with representatives from Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council, Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, and Greenbank State School.

#### *Lord Mayor's Oxley Creek Task Force / Oxley Creek Transformation*

The Oxley Creek Taskforce has been superseded by the establishment of the Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd, formed to implement the \$100 million, 20-year project to transform the 17km stretch of Oxley Creek covering about 2000ha between the Brisbane River and Johnson Road into a world class green corridor and create a master-planned precinct with new recreational spaces and economic hubs. This would provide water and land-based recreational activities, walking trails, and urban farms as well as allowing for some economic developments.

Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd is chaired by South Bank Corporation board member Nigel Chamier. Other Board members are Bevan Lynch (Architect and chairman of council's planning advisory group the Urban Futures Board), Guy Gibson (Lend Lease General Manager Communities Development, and also a member of the Urban Futures Board, and OCCA's Executive Officer Anne Clarke who represents the community.

An implementation team of BCC staff supported by consultants Lat27 has been established and is seeking input from the community and organisations on their ideas

for the area. You can write, phone or email the team, attend one of the information sessions, or nominate for the Reference Group.

OCCA supports the intent of the proposal particularly the vision of a continuous biodiversity corridor from the mouth of Oxley Creek to the Brisbane/Logan border at Johnson Rd. Significant nodes such as the Oxley Creek Common, Archerfield Wetlands and the northern area of the Flinders - Karawatha Corridor could benefit from additional plantings, ongoing weed management and maintenance. OCCA also supports the opportunity for community to engage with and learn about our natural areas via improved and additional public access. Similarly, restoration of the old sand mining dredge ponds will also provide valuable habitat connectivity as well as recreational amenity for community.

OCCA has already attended several consultation sessions and will be developing our submission to the Transformation team over the next months. We invite our members to send us their input as well as writing directly to the Transformation team.

***Phil Gunasekara - Catchment Program Manager***

### **3.3. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The three diligent, professional and dedicated officers who are the mainstay of the OCCA Team - Business Support Officer, Susan Hodgson, Catchment Program Manager, Phil Gunasekara and, Biodiversity Services Manager, Chris Jensen, continue to work hard to ensure that OCCA's momentum continues despite cramped conditions and at times difficult deadlines.

At the end of 2016, we said goodbye with a warm thank-you to Karen Toms and Amelia Mack for their achievements in the Partnerships Manager role. We were most fortunate that Jessica Roffey was able to continue smoothly with all of our activities. When Jessica left us in early 2017, the role was energetically picked up by Emma Barry and Camilla Duff-Burwood. Emma and Camilla have worked very well together and at times have needed extra support to fulfil the demands for OCCA's Corporate Volunteering and Educational Activities. This assistance has been ably provided by Beryl Roberts, Karalyn Fletcher and Jessica Roffey.

OCCA is most grateful to Consolidated Properties for the use of our Coopers Plains 'Dutch House' and grounds and we appreciate the venue very much. However, the need for larger accommodation is becoming more acute as storage space is limited. OCCA would appreciate any ideas for our future accommodation.

***Anne Clarke, Executive Officer***



### 3.4. EDUCATION AND PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER'S REPORT

The Education and Partnerships Manager is responsible for developing and managing the Education Program, Corporate Volunteering Program and the CreekWatch Program.

#### **Education Program**

OCCA's educational services provide flexible, great-value excursion and in-house options for schools. Based on the Australian Curriculum and tailored to the needs of each class, the Education Program allows OCCA to:

- spread a catchment care message to young residents of our catchment;
- build partnerships with schools throughout the catchment;
- tap into the extensive knowledge and skills of our staff and volunteer base; and
- provide a source of income for OCCA.

In 2017, we marketed our education services directly to schools by email, continuing the same approach from previous years. This again proved beneficial and we have found that some schools return for yearly catchment tours or other school bookings, for example, science and geography based lessons. We hope to maintain existing connections with local teachers as well as build new relationships with local schools and their students in 2018.

In 2016-17, we provided school education sessions for schools including the Australia International Islamic College, Centenary State High School, St Aidan's Anglican Girls School and St Joseph's Catholic School (Corinda). Activities included planting native species, weeding, litter removal, macro-invertebrate sampling, water quality testing and catchment tours. A range of topics were covered in the sessions including biodiversity, liveability, volunteering and the role of catchment groups, water catchments and water quality. OCCA was also happy to participate in the Brisbane City Council's Bush Neighbours Program this year, highlighting the impacts of litter on catchment health to Grade 4 students from St Mark's Catholic Primary School, at Kev Hooper Park, Inala.

OCCA continued its involvement with international university students this year, hosting a group from the Yokkaichi University for a lesson on water sampling, as part of the University of Queensland's International and Continuing TESOL Education (ICTE) program. Later in 2017, we held a tree planting event for a group of Chinese university students from the Tzu Chi Foundation. Also, as part of the QUT's International Student Volunteer Initiative, we hosted two small groups of students in volunteer projects at OCCA.



*Students from St. Mark's Catholic School participating in Brisbane City Council's Bush Neighbours program at Kev Hooper Park, Inala*

### **Corporate Volunteering**

Corporate volunteering provides another avenue for OCCA to connect to the broader community to promote a catchment care message. It is also an important source of volunteer input to OCCA's rehabilitation projects and the OCCA Community Native Plant Nursery as well as providing a source of income for OCCA.

This year OCCA worked closely with Landcare Australia to host volunteers from organisations including Telstra, Transurban, Origin Foundation, and Johnson and Johnson Medical. Our corporate volunteers were involved in activities such as tree planting, weeding, native plant propagation and nursery maintenance.

### **CreekWatch**

Through CreekWatch, OCCA works with local businesses to minimise the impacts of their activities on waterways of the Oxley Catchment, improve water quality, protect riparian ecosystems, reduce litter and build a culture of workers in industry caring for their local environment.

The CreekWatch program is made possible through the generosity of our on-going business partners, RockPRESS, BMI Group, CSR, Dulux and Sims Metal Management.

In the past year CreekWatch events have included:

- Tree planting at Success St Park, Acacia Ridge - OCCA successfully obtained Everyone's Environment Grant funding in 2016 to rehabilitate a section of riparian vegetation along Oxley Creek at Success Street Park, Acacia Ridge. In 2017, OCCA received on-going support from Brisbane City Council's Community Conservation Assistance via the Community Conservation Partnership Program to continue restoration efforts at the site. With volunteer assistance from local CreekWatch Partner RockPRESS, OCCA and local community volunteers, two tree plantings were held: one on the 15 November 2016 and the second on 10 October 2017. In total 500 native plants have been added to the Oxley Creek riparian buffer as part of these events.
- Working bees at Success St Park, Acacia Ridge - Regular working bees have been possible with the commitment of hard-working volunteers from RockPRESS and OCCA. Work has included weeding, spreading mulch, and litter removal.
- Tree planting at Granard Wetlands, Rocklea - A tree planting event was held in conjunction with our CreekWatch partner Dulux and its partners at Granard Wetlands on 7 November, 2017. The event was attended by 20 volunteers and approximately 400 native plants were planted in this important environmental offset area.

This year, we worked directly with each CreekWatch partner to co-host events with their employees and clients. This new approach to engaging with CreekWatch businesses has proven to be successful and we hope to continue to strengthen our corporate relationships in 2018.



*CreekWatch Works with RockPRESS at Success St Park, Acacia Ridge*

### **Working with the Community**

This past year OCCA held a range of events and activities to engage with the local community. A few are listed below:

- OCCA held a catchment group information stall at Brisbane City Council's tree planting event at C.A. O'Sullivan Park.
- Two tree planting events at Granard Wetlands with the Tzu Chi Foundation. Over 80 volunteers were involved during the events and over 650 trees were planted. An additional litter pick up event was also held in conjunction with Brisbane City Council at Annie St, Coopers Plains.
- OCCA participated in the citizen science initiative 'Feather Map of Australia Project' run by the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANTSO). We organised a bird walk with catchment group members and Birds Queensland to collect the dropped feathers of wetland bird species at Oxley Creek Common. The feathers were dried out and sent to ANTSO for analysis and inclusion in the Feather Map project. The project utilises stable isotope analysis of carbon and nitrogen to identify nutritional information about the bird's diet.



*Bird spotting as part of the Feather Map project*

- Following receipt of funding from the Community Marine Debris Grant, supported by Sea World Marine Research and Healthy Land and Water, we ran two litter pick up events along Oxley Creek on 19 August 2017, with one at Simpson's Playground, Graceville and the other at Oxley Creek Common. With the assistance of the Pamphlett-Tennyson Sea Scouts, volunteers also collected litter from Oxley Creek and the riparian zone. OCCA's Griffith University Community Program Interns carried out a litter audit at the Oxley Creek Common of the litter collected. The audit was carried out in accordance with

methodology set out by Tangaroa Blue and all results were submitted to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative.

- We partnered with the Tuesday Common Carers to restore riparian habitat and educate the local community on the environmental values present at the Oxley Creek Common. The OCCA Partnerships and Education team worked closely with the Tuesday Common Carers group to provide support via our school education program, corporate volunteering and community grants. We worked together to establish new tree, shrub and groundcover plantings and undertake weeding at the Common.
- Building off OCCA's work on the Litter and Illegal Dumping Project in 2015 and 2016, we approached businesses in the Dunn Road, Rocklea Industrial area about participating in local clean-up campaigns. We also held a Clean-Up Australia Day event on the corner of Dunn Road and Suscatand St with local business Loscam participating. Since then we have worked with Brisbane City Council's Littering team on a number of initiatives, including partnering with BCC's '104 or More' litter prevention program events to run litter clean ups at litter hotspots within Oxley Creek catchment.



*Volunteers enjoying morning tea after the Community Marine Debris Grant clean up event at Oxley Creek Common*

Taylor Bridge Rotary Club invited us to join them on 3 October. They were surprised at the length of Oxley Creek and the number of suburbs it traverses on its way to the Brisbane River at Tennyson. They are planning to join us in the future in a planting activity and hope to cajole other Rotary Clubs to join them on the day.

**Emma Barry and Camilla Duff Burford, Education and Partnerships Managers**

### 3.5. CATCHMENT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Much of OCCA's work is funded from Federal, State and local government grant programs, as well as through partnering with organisations which are also keen to see improvements to their land or local environments.

OCCA has been successful in securing a number of grants to undertake rehabilitation and education / awareness projects as follows:

- **Federal Government - Improving Your Local Parks and Environment Program.**  
The IYLPE program has provided funding to augment the current restoration works at Granard Wetlands and allow ongoing restoration and maintenance over the next three years.
- **Logan City Council - Crewes Creek Weed Management Workshops.**  
The LCC Envirogrants Program provided funding to run three weed management workshops aimed at increasing the capacity of landholders in the Crewes Creek Catchment to undertake restoration works on their own properties. The practical workshops gave participants skills in developing a management plan for their property and introduced a variety of weed control techniques for species common to the area. Participants also had the opportunity to work with a member of OCCA's Biodiversity Services to practice these techniques.
- **Logan City Council – Crewes Creek Weed Management**  
Following on from the Success of the Weed Management Workshops, Logan City Council has engaged OCCA in a pilot project to work with 10 residents in active weed management on their properties. Commencing from December 2017 the project will invite expressions of interest from residents with properties contiguous to Crewes Creek to work with OCCA Biodiversity Services. Participants will have a tailored plan developed for their site and spend a day working alongside our restoration team. The participants will also be supported with native plants from the OCCA nursery and ongoing expert advice.
- **BCC – Community Conservation Assistance Grants (CCA)**  
OCCA was successful in obtaining support from Brisbane City Council for restoration activities in Lawson Street Park, our CreekWatch site at Success St, Sergeant Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve and Billabong Place, along Sheepstation Creek

OCCA also has continuing partnerships to improve areas of Oxley Creek and its tributaries as follows:

- **Oxley Creek Common - 20 Million Trees Project.** The 'Urban Riparian Corridor Restoration at Oxley Creek Common' project, funded by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme, involves the planting and maintenance of 27,000 native shrubs and trees at the Oxley Creek Common, a



unique 115 hectare open space on the northern and highly urbanised reaches of the Oxley Creek.

We are currently in the final year of this three year project which has already seen over 13000 plants introduced to the paddocks and infill plantings along the riparian zone. The paddock plantings are part of a research project in partnership with the University of Queensland that aims to test the performance of two different species mixes ('fast growing' vs. 'hardy'). We are hoping that the results of this experiment will improve the cost-effectiveness of restoration plantings as well as improving the vegetation corridor along Oxley Creek.

This year OCCA undertook a direct seeding trial during which 5kgs of native seed were sown into the buffer areas around the research plots using a Burford Tree Seeder. After the wonderful rains that we have experienced in September and October we are seeing widespread germination of Dodoneas and Acacias in all the plots with hope that the other species will emerge soon. Luke Shoo, Evan Davies, Carole Bristow, Victoria Crepin and Mandy Greyling volunteered their time to develop a monitoring methodology and have undertaken the first round of surveys. Andrew McVinish volunteered with our Biodiversity Services for a couple of intense days undertaking the seeding itself.



*Direct seeding on the Oxley Creek Common as part of the 20 Million Trees Project*

This project would not have been possible without support from UQ researchers Luke Shoo and John Dwyer, Carole Bristow for her advice on species selection, OCCA biodiversity Services, Green Army teams from Conservation Volunteers Australia and Manpower Services, Friends of Oxley Creek Common, Corinda State High School and the Qld Department of Housing and Public Works.

- **Granard Wetlands** – OCCA has partnered with Energex and the Brisbane City Council to manage weeds, plant 25 000 grasses, shrubs and trees and maintain Granard Wetlands over the next four years. This 5.5 hectare area is bordered by the Ipswich Motorway, Granard Road, Marshall Road and Rocklea Bunnings. Stable Swamp Creek flows through the wetland before joining Oxley Creek west of the Ipswich Motorway. This project has seen additional support from the Improving Your Local Parks and Environment Program and OCCA will be installing



a sign on Granard Rd inviting community and industry participation in the ongoing enhancement of the site.



*Origin Energy corporate volunteers at Granard Wetlands*

- **Oxley Creek -Bremer River Twinning Project** - OCCA's Twinning Project with the Bremer Catchment begun in 2014 has now been completed and the results are stunning.

A wonderful opportunity to share knowledge and experience, gained in working to improve the health of the land within the catchment of Oxley Creek, has been well rewarded by the successful establishment of the Bremer River Network (BRN). During the years of development of this project, it became obvious that what was needed was a network of community groups, that is, an actual “network on the web”. This eventually became the primary focus of the Twinning Project. The Bremer River Network is now up and running, complete with a Blog, Logo and Legacy Site.



Participating organisations are Bremer Catchment Association, SEQ Catchments, Native Plants of Australia, Ipswich Creeks Catchment Group, West Moreton Landcare, Fassifern Field Naturalists, Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire, and Raceview District Protection Organisation. An officer from Scenic Rim Regional

Council, which is responsible for a large area of the catchment, is involved where possible.

The BRN is not only achieving a communicating and supportive network, but also offers a funding mechanism for projects through the Bremer River Fund. In addition, their web-based 'Bremer River Blog', a wonderful bridge of news and dates, is being produced four times a year.

OCCA recognises the assistance given to the Twinning Project by Ipswich City Council Officers. We also congratulate and thank the various "Twinning Officers" employed over the four years - Miriam Nyrene, Sarah Choudhury and Hannah Collins and now Dani Andlemac.

The BRN has established a "Legacy Site" at Cribb Park which was celebrated in July 2017. This "Garden of Eden" project was initiated by a member of the community who perceived that Cribb Park could be a place where the Ipswich community could come together with a common purpose. Following four weeding days in June, over 1500 square metres was cleared of Glycine and this should inspire further work into the future on this very demanding site.

A Bus Trip held on 14 October 2017 enabled members of this widely spread catchment of the Bremer River was well attended and widely appreciated, allowing attendees to become more acquainted with each other's special places.

***Phil Gunasekara, Catchment Programs Manager***

### **3.6. BIODIVERSITY SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

2017 has been a year of consolidation for OCCA's Biodiversity Services (BS) following on from the growth of projects and capability realised during 2016. It should be noted that all profits generated by this Social Enterprise are used to support OCCA and its environmental and education programs.

BS has signed new contracts and commenced on the ground restoration work with Brisbane City Council (Wipe Out Weeds, Community Conservation Assistance and Habitat Brisbane Contractor support), The Federal Department of Environment and Energy (Improving Your Local Parks and Environment), Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC), Conservation Volunteers, Healthy Waterways and Catchments (What's Your Nature), and the Brisbane Catchments Network.

BS was engaged to fulfil a number of short term contracts in 2017 and was privileged to employ Max Fowler-Roy, Richard Morble, Jason Brooking and Jeff Eichler to fulfil these roles at short notice. Evan Davies, Josh Hall, Sam Mitchell-Whittington, Karalyn Fletcher, Dave Whitfield, Will Charlton and Alanna Krompf (cameo appearance) are

the familiar faces that provide the excellent Ecosystem Restoration Services for which Biodiversity Services has become known.

Joe Ottesen and Bea Meyer have been gaining volunteer experience by assisting OCCA field staff on projects throughout the Catchment. Joe, wearing her Ecologist hat, has also provided OCCA with a detailed restoration plan for the Pamphlett-Tennyson Sea Scouts site at Vivian Street, Tennyson.

OCCA is grateful to the Green Army teams that have provided support to some of our legacy sites, namely, Oxley Golf Complex, Granard Road Wetlands and Freeney Street Park.

OCCA's Biodiversity Services continues the successful partnership with Belong (formerly ARCSI, Acacia Ridge Community Support Inc.) to deliver the Queensland State Government's Skilling Queensland for Work program. Three intakes of participants has seen sites at Success Street, Acacia Ridge, Freeney Street Park, Rocklea and Granard Road Wetlands at Rocklea receive much needed on ground support.

2017 was also the year in which OCCA and Conservation Volunteers Australia formalised their working relationship with the signing of an MOU. The MOU will increase the on ground potential of both organisations and may put us in a stronger position to gain ongoing and appropriate contract work.

Interns from Griffith and Queensland University have supported Josh Hall in the development and roll out of our field work reporting mobile app.

Evan Davies has been busy knocking out code, developing an app that will, in his words "be a scalable, integrated, database-driven application designed to assist our nursery team in all aspects of growing native species for natural area and backyard restoration, from species selection and seed collection, to propagation, stock management, sales and providing plant information to the public" Phew, good thing I asked!

The stand out sub-project award for 2017 must go to the "buffer planting" at Oxley Creek Common. OCCA collaborated with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services in Inverell, NSW to borrow a Burford Direct Seeding machine. The seeder was towed behind the OCCA ute as it ploughed, disced, direct seeded and compacted the surface as it travelled along the 3km of track selected for the trial. Five kilos of seed was sown in two days!

UQ researchers Luke Shoo and John Dwyer, OCCA volunteers Carole Bristow and Victoria Crepin and Evan Davies have formulated a methodology to measure the

success of the seeding trial over time. Be sure to keep an eye on the OCCA website and on Social Media for the latest updates...

Professional development opportunities for OCCA's Biodiversity Services staff have included Medium Rigid vehicle licencing, fire ant training, standpipe accreditation, chainsaw and polesaw accreditation and first aid training.

Thanks as always to the Biodiversity Services field staff and volunteers. Their dedication, knowledge and hard work ensure that our reputation as reliable and professional suppliers of rehabilitation services is rightfully acknowledged.

***Chris Jensen, Biodiversity Services Manager***

### **3.7. CREEKCARE COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The OCCA CreekCare team works every Thursday morning from 7am at one of ten different bush care sites in the Oxley Creek Catchment - Jock Hing Park (Sunnybank), Benarrawa Park (Corinda), Cliveden Avenue Reserve (Corinda), Gaddes Park (Sunnybank), Russ Hall Park (Salisbury), Mayfly Reserve at Lawson and Kendall Streets (Oxley), Nosworthy Park (Corinda), Oxley Creek Common (Rocklea), Pennywort Creek at Deniven St & George Scarlett Park (Corinda) and Strickland Terrace Parklands (Sherwood). All the sites (except for the Oxley Creek Common) are Brisbane City Council Habitat Brisbane sponsored BushCare sites and the Coordinators nominate what jobs they want us to do at each visit. These tasks generally include weed control, mulching, planting, staking, watering and litter removal.

2017 was another productive year for CreekCare and we added a new site to our list, Mayfly Reserve at Lawson and Kendall Streets, Oxley which is now a designated Habitat Brisbane site jointly co-ordinated by Rod Goldsworthy and Dorothy Watson. The weather during the year was variable with a very dry spring shifting our focus to watering young plants and weed control rather than planting. The BCC Habitat Brisbane program continues to be an invaluable support to our groups and a few of our sites benefited from grant funding supporting major re-plantings, erosion control and weed control projects.

Our volunteering at Myall Park Botanic Gardens via Glenmorgan for their open day in August has become an annual event. This year a small group of volunteers from Brisbane (Noel, Marie and Dorothy from CreekCare and Bob from Beechworth) joined Sue, Dale and Peter at the gardens to help prepare for their Spring Day. Unlike last year it was fine and dry and the Directors had planned a variety of tasks to keep us busy under sunny skies and mild conditions. Once again we set up in the quarters, which is ideal for a group of likeminded volunteers. It's great for socialising

but this year we only managed one night with the fireplace in action as the weather was unusually mild.

We set to work ably directed and assisted by Sue, Peter and Scott and were soon clearing tracks, installing a new benchtop in the Avochie cottage kitchen, fixing the mower, fixing the dunny, washing down the buildings and a host of other tasks. With the variety of tasks on Sue's list we all could find a job that suited our skills and we soon whittled down the list.



*CreekCare volunteers enjoying a post-working bee smoko*

The Spring Day was well attended and a highlight was the bush tucker fare prepared by the Directors and Friends of Myall Park plus Priscilla Mundell from Condamine, a local bush foods expert. The food was delicious and novel and we were all impressed by the variety of bush foods that can be used to good effect. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay and we look forward to repeating the exercise in 2018.

During the year we farewelled two of our long term younger volunteers, Edward and Carly who secured jobs in their chosen fields. However our average age was still lowered by the presence of our keen young volunteers, Laura and Dee. All members of CreekCare are volunteers and while most of us are active retirees we encourage participation from students and young people wishing to gain work experience in

bush rehabilitation and plant propagation. We currently have fourteen regular volunteers with occasional help from students and interested members of the public. Without exception, all our Bushcare Coordinators appreciate the efforts of our hard working and dedicated volunteers.

We continue to receive excellent support from OCCA, Biodiversity Services, BCC's Habitat Brisbane and the Coordinators of our ten Bushcare groups.

***Noel Standfast, CreekCare Coordinator***

### **3.8. TUESDAY COMMON CARERS REPORT**

The Tuesday Common Carers (TCC) have continued to work every Tuesday morning at Oxley Creek Common, with a dedicated group of workers meeting from 7 – 9 am. During 2017, TCC have worked 453 hours. We are aiming to rescue native plants from invasive species, restore areas that have been overwhelmed by weeds and maintain habitat for wildlife. Oxley Creek Common is home to over 200 species of birds as well as a range of other wildlife and is a treasure trove of native plants.

During 2017, we continued to work on the creek bank south of the pontoon. When we started working in this area, glycine, broad-leaved pepper and asparagus fern made this area impenetrable. The new plantings in this area have done well, but the seed bank in the soil means that any shower of rain produces more weeds. Cyclone Debbie brought a new crop of weeds. However, it is heartening that space and sunlight have given life to native species as well. There is a healthy patch of saltwater couch, *Sporobolus virginicus*, on the creek bank and the new mangroves are nearly a metre high. Other species include Lesser Joyweed (*Alternanthera denticulate*) and *Eclipta platyglossa*, Sea Celery (*Apium prostratum*), Swamp barnyard grass, (*Echinochloa telmatophila*), Blown grass (*Agrostis avenacea*), a native oxalis and a native bluebell. This area is again demanding our attention after the spring rain, but is rewarding us with an amazing variety of native plants that have been lying dormant waiting for space to grow.

TCC has also worked steadily from the gate to the first gully removing glycine, broad-leaved pepper, asparagus fern, coral berry, Chinese elms, Brazilian nightshade, blackberry nightshade and cobblers' pegs. Removal of weeds from the gully revealed lomandras and dianellas struggling to survive. A pleasant surprise was the presence of Bell Vine (*Ipomoea plebian*). It is rewarding to see the return of Climbing Saltbush (*Einaridia nutans*) and Warrigal greens where there is space to grow. Additionally, acacias, breynias and alphitonias are emerging.

Thanks go to:

- The Thursday CreekCare team, who have planted over 200 seedlings in three sites: the gully before the gate, the newly cleared gully, and along the track bordering the fence.
- The volunteer workers, organised by OCCA. During the Oxley Creek clean-up, volunteers weeded around a Green Army planting. On another occasion 30 Telstra volunteers weeded for several hours. St Aidan's students have planted an area just before the gully. OCCA also assists with watering the plantings along the track.
- Luke Nuttall and his Green Army team who we farewelled in July. His work at the Common was invaluable and our group appreciated his interest in native vegetation and willingness to help.
- Carole Bristow who comes and identifies plants which helps the team enormously.
- Trevor Armstrong who continues to work quietly at weed control.

Congratulations to all the Tuesday Common Carers, who continue to be undaunted by the challenges at this site.

***Mary Lou Simpson, Tuesday Common Carers Coordinator***

### **3.9. NURSERY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The OCCA Nursery, located in the shade house at the rear of the OCCA Catchment Centre, has been busily growing indigenous seedlings and plants throughout 2017. This is entirely due to the great efforts of the dedicated group of volunteers who work in the facility every Thursday from 9.00am until 12noon.

Several seed gathering expeditions in Toohey Forest throughout the year have maintained our substantial seedbank. Throughout 2017 this seed has been systematically planted, propagated and pricked out into tubes ready for planting. The timer controlled sprinkler system, set up and adjusted by Wayne Brown, has improved plant growth and survival. This has resulted in many thousands of tube stock being given to schools, community groups and used by the Bushcare and catchment care groups within and around Oxley Creek. Some small income has also resulted from plant sales.

Sincere thanks are extended to all the OCCA volunteers, Jill, Ingrid, Saren, Wayne, Richard, Bronwyn, and others who have worked in the nursery and so freely shared their skills and knowledge. A number of school groups, as well as the Green Army, have also participated in nursery activities.

Feel free to join us on Thursday mornings if you have some time. It is not hard work but it is a great feeling to know that the output from the nursery is helping to enhance flora habitats along Oxley Creek.



***Beryl Roberts, Nursery Manager***

### **3.10. VOLUNTEER MANAGER'S REPORT**

Our volunteers and student internships provide OCCA with extra hours needed to accomplish our programs and we are most grateful for their dedication and commitment.

The Oxley Creek catchment is truly fortunate to benefit from the dedication of our CreekCare, Tuesday Common Carers and Nursery volunteers, led by Noel Standfast, Mary-Lou Simpson and Beryl Roberts respectively. Their work can be seen in many of the natural areas of the catchment through assistance provided to Habitat Brisbane groups and the native plants used in many of our restoration sites.

This year we were fortunate to host another round of interns from Griffith University. Nicolas Brenes Horvilleur, Kirsten Marano, Victoria Crepin, Chris Barringer, Sam Grierson and Cobi Vrenegoor working on a range of projects including:

- Fauna monitoring
- Vegetation surveys and restoration trials
- Regeneration work at various sites in the catchment
- Assistance with CreekWatch activities
- Litter audits
- Education days
- Community engagement activities

Students from the QUT International Student Volunteer Initiative also provided valuable assistance. Kristin Sun, Diana Salas Munoz and Carrie Li developed media and marketing materials as well as a contact management system.

OCCA would also like to thank Carole Bristow, Yan Suen, Bea Meyer, John Dwyer, Luke Shoo and Joe Ottesen for regularly volunteering their time and sharing their expertise on our projects.

Last, but certainly not least, the knowledge, efforts and time of our volunteer Management Committee are critical to our functioning.

***Phil Gunasekara - Catchment Programs Manager***

### **3.11. BCC CREEK CATCHMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

As the dedicated Creek Catchment Officer for the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA), through Council's Creek Catchments Program (CCP), I have continued to enjoy working alongside the passionate team that is OCCA for a number of years now.

I work with OCCA to find ways of developing conservation and community engagement project synergies with Brisbane City Council, industry and the community, and assist OCCA with capacity-building training and opportunities.

During the past year, I have:

- assisted OCCA with re-establishing a relationship with the Pallara Stocklands development team where OCCA then attended one of their monthly “Meet Your Neighbour” days to engage with people who have bought into the new housing development that sits adjacent to high-value open woodland and wetlands
- worked with OCCA at a Brisbane City Council “Street Tree Planting Event” in Acacia Ridge where we had the opportunity to engage with local residents about our activities and objectives, that resulted in active volunteer recruitment
- coordinated a Catchment Tour of the Oxley Creek Catchment in June for members of the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (catchment groups, Habitat Brisbane, Land for Wildlife and Environment Centre partners). I was very happy to host representatives from the Oxley Creek Transformation Project, Council’s Chairman of the Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee (Cr. McLachlan) and members of the Natural Environment, Water and Sustainability Branch within Council primarily to answer questions from the community about the greatly anticipated Oxley Creek Transformation Project which has now commenced, and to showcase to them the wonderful work that volunteers have undertaken in the catchment. We were fortunate to have presentations from Beryl Roberts about indigenous and local history and to hear catchment stories from Anne Clarke’s wealth of knowledge. On the tour we visited the following sites:
  - the Oxley Creek Common to see and hear about OCCA’s 20 Million Trees experimental project, explained by Chris Jensen
  - Kev Hooper Park in Inala to see the transformation the local Habitat Brisbane group has effected over the last 10 years in partnership with Council
  - Sgt Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve to have a chance to walk through remnant high-value riparian and open forest and to see the challenging friable nature of the sand-based catchment first-hand, and
  - Benarrawa Park in Corinda, an active Habitat Brisbane site for over 20 years, where the hydrological challenges of the area have been managed through long-stem planting, explained by Trevor Armstrong, on behalf of Noel Standfast, the site leader.

In October 2017, it was announced that OCCA was successful in their bid for Community Conservation Assistance (CCA) project funding to manage Cat’s Claw Creeper along the Oxley Creek in Sergeant Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve (SDSMR) in Heathwood, and a year of further maintenance on Billabong Place, in Sheep Station Creek, Parkinson – congratulations OCCA!

OCCA’s Biodiversity Services Unit are currently engaged in establishing canopy along a section of Stable Swamp Creek, in Kookaburra Park, Rocklea as part of the 2016/2017 round of Community Conservation Assistance Program that I am also overseeing.

OCCA also have two other current CCA projects being undertaken at Success Street Park and Lawson Street Park that are contributing to biodiversity and habitat values in their catchment.

It has been wonderful to be a part of the Conservation Community Partnerships Program, and to be able to offer capacity-building training to members of OCCA. Over the past year, OCCA's members have participated in the



*Catchment Tour at Sgt Dan Stiller Memorial Reserve (Photo: Anna Shera)*

following training opportunities and seminars hosted through the CCP Program:

- Website Training
- Waterway Health Assessment Training events in Macroinvertebrates, Horiba, Fish Sampling and Identification, Rapid Assessment of Riparian Corridors and the Revision Day
- Transforming Your Volunteer Experience workshop
- First Aid training for OCCA's Partnerships Officers
- Brisbane Biodiversity Seminar Series – several events
- Restoration Celebration, held at Nudgee Beach this year

Together the Oxley Creek Catchment Association, Community Conservation Partnership Programs, external agencies and the community have made great strides to improve the health of the Oxley Creek catchment. I look forward to another exciting year working alongside OCCA and realising more important conservation visions, especially as the Oxley Creek Transformation Project continues to unfold.

***Donna Edwards, Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Officer***

### **3.12. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial aspects of OCCA for the 2016-2017 period were very well managed by OCCA's Bookkeeper Susan Hodgson, who also implemented and maintained office procedures for the year, all of which was overseen by the Executive Officer, Anne Clarke. The Accounts were again audited by Peter Price & Associates and are included with the Annual Report.

As noted in previous Treasurer Reports, OCCA although a not-for-profit association is required to comply with the complex regulation and legislation that govern grant applications, acquittals, and the ATO's Deductible Gift Recipients rules and funding, whilst also complying with auditing obligations.

The overall total income recorded for the 2016-17 period was \$562,075, which is an increase of \$56,413 on the 2015-16 period. The total expenses however also increased with the overall expenses for the period being \$551,219, an increase of \$181,780 on the 2015-16 period.

The 2016-2017 financial year saw OCCA record a profit of \$16,660 decreasing the net profit from 2015-2016 of \$142,036 by \$125,376. OCCA's two main income avenues for the year were generated from Biodiversity Services (Regeneration Work) and Grants Income.

The income generated from Regeneration Work decreased by \$55,423, receiving a total of \$294,243 for the 2016-2017 period. Grants income increased by \$110,325, receiving a total of \$217,884 for the 2016-2017 period.

There was a decrease in total membership income of \$422.73, recording an income of \$1415 for the 2016-2017 period, with the majority of the decrease seen in the Corporate/Community/School membership category, with concession, household and individual membership income remaining fairly stable.

OCCA's total equity/net assets as at the end of the 2016-2017 financial period was \$317,167.

OCCA's Balance Sheet remains in a good financial position as we continue striving forward to achieve our vision and objectives for the benefit of the whole catchment of Oxley Creek.

The next financial year will again be a challenging one, with the main financial focus needing to be on strategies to increase returns from Biodiversity Services regeneration work, remaining competitive in grant applications, and exercising tighter controls on expenditure.

***Nadia Mislin, Treasurer***



## 4. AUDITOR'S REPORT & STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS

**PETER I. PRICE  
& ASSOCIATES PTY LTD**

(ABN: 73 010 341 250)

Phone : (07) 3376 3411

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CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS  
TAX AGENTS

15 Loffs Road  
PO Box 465  
Mount Ommaney Qld 4074

**Independent Audit Report to the Members of  
Oxley Creek Catchment Association Incorporated**

### **AUDIT REPORT**

I have audited the Financial Statements of the **Oxley Creek Catchment Association Incorporated** consisting of Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 September 2017.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material mis-statement. Audit work was confined to confirming amounts recorded in the Associations records and was done on a test basis. I have not verified the existence or valuation of stock or non-current assets.

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical to maintain an effective system of internal control over takings and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. According, my Audit in relation to these types of receipts was limited to the amounts recorded and banked.

In my opinion, the Financial Statement presents fairly in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act, the financial position of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association Incorporated as at 30 September 2017 and the results of the operation for the year then ended.

Dated at Brisbane, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 2017



**Peter I Price  
Auditor  
PETER I PRICE & ASSOCIATES**

**OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
**PROFIT & LOSS PREV YEAR COMPARISON**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Admin Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Booklet Sales	50.00	57.00	(7.00)	(12.28%)
Fundraising Income	0.00	1,360.00	(1,360.00)	(100.0%)
Insurance Recovery	3,010.00	3,336.00	(326.00)	(9.77%)
Nursery Sales	55.00	193.00	(138.00)	(71.5%)
Partnerships				
Corporate Volunteering	2,969.48	3,001.23	(31.75)	(1.06%)
4010 - Consulting Income	2,707.27	4,652.69	(1,945.42)	(41.81%)
Total Partnerships	5,676.75	7,653.92	(1,977.17)	(25.83%)
Regeneration Work Income	294,243.13	349,675.68	(55,432.55)	(15.85%)
Gifts and Donations Income	3,650.00	3,615.00	35.00	0.97%
Membership Dues	1,414.54	1,837.27	(422.73)	(23.01%)
4110 - Grants Income	247,883.75	137,558.81	110,324.94	80.2%
4150 - Miscellaneous Income	57.00	280.98	(223.98)	(79.71%)
4190 - Reimbursed Expenses	6,035.01	94.05	5,940.96	6,316.81%
Total Income	562,075.18	505,661.71	56,413.47	11.16%
Expense				
Accounting Fees	526.09	0.00	526.09	100.0%
Advertising & Promotions	0.00	36.82	(36.82)	(100.0%)
Association fees	51.70	45.41	6.29	13.85%
Audit Fees	1,622.73	899.09	723.64	80.49%
Bad Debt Expense	142.00	0.00	142.00	100.0%
Bank Service Charges	85.77	62.71	23.06	36.77%
Bookkeeping	221.00	0.00	221.00	100.0%
Catering	560.13	319.53	240.60	75.3%
Chemicals	5,677.28	0.00	5,677.28	100.0%
Community Activities Expense	60.00	30.00	30.00	100.0%
Computer & Associated Costs	881.57	623.32	258.25	41.43%
Conferences	54.55	27.27	27.28	100.04%
Consulting	14,298.90	136.36	14,162.54	10,386.14%
Consumables	2,290.83	579.60	1,711.23	295.24%
Council Refuse/Waste Fees	21.46	0.00	21.46	100.0%
Depreciation Expense	15,950.59	4,261.18	11,689.41	274.32%
equipment - tools, small equip	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Equipment Hire	643.60	926.45	(282.85)	(30.53%)
Equipment Purchase	6,330.66	6,823.92	(493.26)	(7.23%)
Freight Charges	30.00	172.54	(142.54)	(82.61%)
Fuel	5,066.93	2,252.98	2,813.95	124.9%
Gardening Supplies	0.00	53.10	(53.10)	(100.0%)
Gifts Expense	0.00	31.82	(31.82)	(100.0%)
Grant Overruns	2,840.17	0.00	2,840.17	100.0%
Insurance	6,813.08	4,534.65	2,278.43	50.25%
Interest on Credit Card	22.32	0.42	21.90	5,214.29%
Licenses and Permits	62.55	0.00	62.55	100.0%
Materials purchased for job	15,180.65	0.00	15,180.65	100.0%
Motor Expense	6,329.70	5,497.19	832.51	15.14%
Moving Costs	733.07	2,688.99	(1,955.92)	(72.74%)
Nursery Cost	526.50	1,071.36	(544.86)	(50.86%)
Payroll Expenses	400,690.82	329,589.33	71,101.49	21.57%
Plant Purchases	21,961.08	534.40	21,426.68	4,009.48%
Postage and Delivery	0.00	160.91	(160.91)	(100.0%)

**OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
**PROFIT & LOSS PREV YEAR COMPARISON**  
**YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change
Printing, Reproduction, Artwork	1,004.29	65.45	938.84	1,434.44%
Repairs/Maintenance - Equipment	3,818.11	5,127.69	(1,309.58)	(25.54%)
Repairs/Maintenance - Other	104.80	74.52	30.28	40.63%
Safety Equipment	637.13	17.82	619.31	3,475.37%
Small Debts Written Off	0.00	509.09	(509.09)	(100.0%)
Staff Amenities	197.80	242.47	(44.67)	(18.42%)
Stationery & Office Supplies	2,010.09	299.81	1,710.28	570.46%
subcontractor expenses	23,788.77	0.00	23,788.77	100.0%
Subscription	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.0%
Suspense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Telecommunications	1,721.83	748.65	973.18	129.99%
Training	3,327.09	0.00	3,327.09	100.0%
Travel Expenses	180.91	21.50	159.41	741.44%
Uniforms & protective clothing	1,670.22	0.00	1,670.22	100.0%
Utilities	2,881.72	861.68	2,020.04	234.43%
Volunteer Costs	0.00	110.00	(110.00)	(100.0%)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>551,218.49</b>	<b>369,438.03</b>	<b>181,780.46</b>	<b>49.21%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>10,856.69</b>	<b>136,223.68</b>	<b>(125,366.99)</b>	<b>(92.03%)</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
Interest Income	5,803.64	5,812.78	(9.14)	(0.16%)
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>5,803.64</b>	<b>5,812.78</b>	<b>(9.14)</b>	<b>(0.16%)</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>5,803.64</b>	<b>5,812.78</b>	<b>(9.14)</b>	<b>(0.16%)</b>
	<b>16,660.33</b>	<b>142,036.46</b>	<b>(125,376.13)</b>	<b>(88.27%)</b>



**OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**  
**BALANCE SHEET PREV YEAR COMPARISON**  
**AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
Bank Aust General Account	174,804.67	191,881.32	(17,076.65)	(8.9%)
Bank Aust Gift Account	5,974.45	3,434.99	2,539.46	73.93%
Bank Aust Term Deposit	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.0%
EHP GRANT 12024273	0.00	1,030.79	(1,030.79)	(100.0%)
Total Chequing/Savings	280,779.12	296,347.10	(15,567.98)	(5.25%)
Accounts Receivable				
1200 - Accounts Receivable	64,676.73	94,730.77	(30,054.04)	(31.73%)
Total Accounts Receivable	64,676.73	94,730.77	(30,054.04)	(31.73%)
Total Current Assets	345,455.85	391,077.87	(45,622.02)	(11.67%)
Fixed Assets				
Computer Equipment at WDV	1,707.52	2,029.83	(322.31)	(15.88%)
Display Equipment at WDV	6.95	13.93	(6.98)	(50.11%)
Motor Vehicle at WDV	10,208.33	20,416.67	(10,208.34)	(50.0%)
Plant and Equipment at WDV	5,769.63	8,071.63	(2,302.00)	(28.52%)
Storage container at WDV	1,113.25	1,204.21	(90.96)	(7.55%)
Total Fixed Assets	18,805.68	31,736.27	(12,930.59)	(40.74%)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>364,261.53</b>	<b>422,814.14</b>	<b>(58,552.61)</b>	<b>(13.85%)</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
2000 - Accounts Payable	2,018.57	0.00	2,018.57	100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	2,018.57	0.00	2,018.57	100.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
Grants				
CCW001 - Catchment Centre	1,538.98	1,563.98	(25.00)	(1.6%)
CFC001	0.00	528.00	(528.00)	(100.0%)
CMD1711	199.63	0.00	199.63	100.0%
Creekwatch Grants	2,667.33	20,857.52	(18,190.19)	(87.21%)
EEG002 Everyone's Env Grant 002	20,624.66	3,741.04	16,883.62	451.31%
ENV077 BCC Environment Grant 13	0.00	(55.18)	55.18	100.0%
IRF001	0.00	7,022.11	(7,022.11)	(100.0%)
IYLPE001	9,800.00	0.00	9,800.00	100.0%
LCC003 EnviroGrant	832.11	0.00	832.11	100.0%
LID001	0.00	4,165.95	(4,165.95)	(100.0%)
OCC20MT	(20,773.60)	34,868.68	(55,642.28)	(159.58%)
P2P2016	0.00	(1,522.01)	1,522.01	100.0%
SEQ CFC	(6,987.98)	(1,449.28)	(5,538.70)	382.17%
SEQC01 Speedy's Paddock	2,450.00	3,975.00	(1,525.00)	(38.37%)
WAC012 Naver Street	0.00	2,730.00	(2,730.00)	(100.0%)
Total Grants	10,351.13	76,425.81	(66,074.68)	(86.46%)
2100 - Payroll Liabilities				
PAYG Payable	9,510.00	10,510.00	(1,000.00)	(9.52%)
Superannuation Payable	8,560.32	8,079.64	480.68	5.95%
Total 2100 - Payroll Liabilities	18,070.32	18,589.64	(519.32)	(2.79%)
2200 - Tax Payable				
GST Adjustment	0.00	7,300.00	(7,300.00)	(100.0%)
2200 - Tax Payable - Other	16,654.80	14,992.31	1,662.49	11.09%
Total 2200 - Tax Payable	16,654.80	22,292.31	(5,637.51)	(25.29%)
Total Other Current Liabilities	45,076.25	117,307.76	(72,231.51)	(61.57%)

**OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
BALANCE SHEET PREV YEAR COMPARISON  
AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Total Current Liabilities	47,094.82	117,307.76	(70,212.94)	(59.85%)
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>47,094.82</b>	<b>117,307.76</b>	<b>(70,212.94)</b>	<b>(59.85%)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>317,166.71</b>	<b>305,506.38</b>	<b>11,660.33</b>	<b>3.82%</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
1110 · Retained Earnings	305,506.38	163,469.92	142,036.46	86.89%
1111 · Prior Year Adjustment	(5,000.00)	0.00	(5,000.00)	(100.0%)
Net Income	16,660.33	142,036.46	(125,376.13)	(88.27%)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>317,166.71</b>	<b>305,506.38</b>	<b>11,660.33</b>	<b>3.82%</b>

## 5. MAPS OF OCCA PROJECT SITES

