

OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION HISTORY

Oxley Creek is a key tributary of the Brisbane River. Prior to white settlement, the Yerongpan clan lived in the area and Oxley Creek was known as 'Benarrawal'. The swampy land at Willawong provided an important hunting area with abundant flora and fauna along the creek and its many tributaries. Rocky Water Holes was a favourite camping area for Aborigines.

The local geology provided tools, sharpening stones, ceremonial sites and stories for both local and visiting clans. Sandstone was used for grinding tools and ochre, jasper and chalcedony were used to make stone cutting tools. Remnants of stone tools have been found in the vicinity of Archerfield Wetlands and Bora Rings once existed at Camira and Graceville.

The first Europeans to see Oxley Creek were three ex-convict cedar cutters – Thomas Pamphlett, John Finnegan and Richard Parsons - who were shipwrecked on Moreton Island. Aboriginal people helped them get to the mainland where they travelled upstream along the Brisbane River. At Oxley Creek they found two canoes, one of which they used to cross the river and travel back downstream. Pamphlett and Finnegan were rescued by John Oxley and later that year accompanied him on an expedition to survey the Brisbane River and on reaching the creek, Oxley named it Canoe Creek. Following a subsequent surveying expedition, Canoe Creek was renamed Oxley Creek.



Oxley Creek catchment

Oxley Creek, a tributary of the Brisbane River, drains a catchment area of approximately 26 000 ha (260km²) and, as at 2016, lies within three local government areas – Brisbane, Logan, and Ipswich. Oxley Creek catchment is a sand-based alluvial basin with a shallow water table and has been subject to extensive sand mining in its lower reaches. Oxley Creek is an unstable creek system, subject to bank erosion and siltation.

Oxley Creek has its headwaters on the northern slopes of Mt Perry in the Flinders Peak area. The creek stretches some 70 km, and eventually discharges into the Brisbane River at Tennyson.

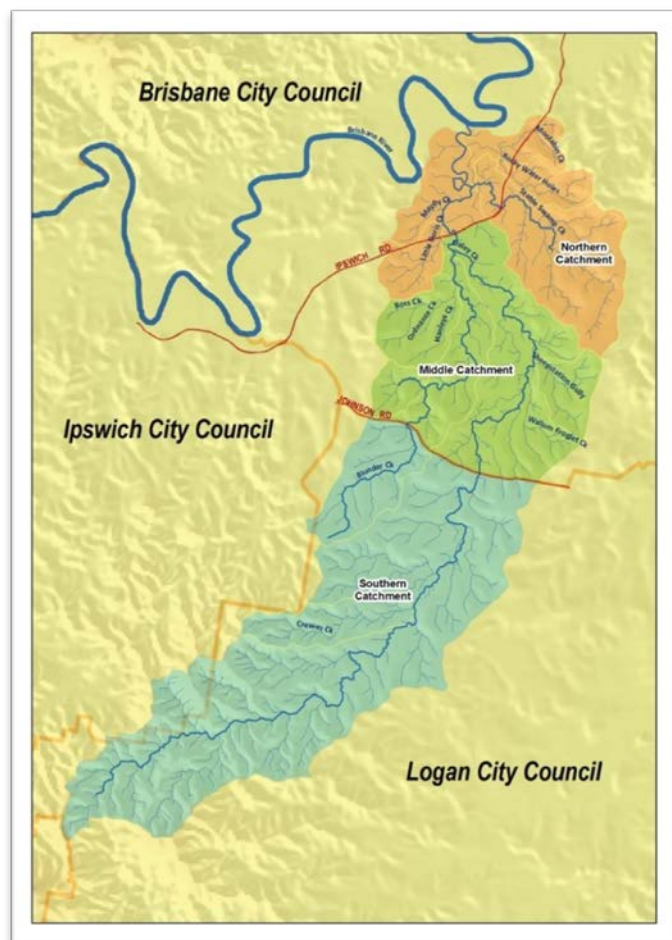
Crewes Creek, a tributary rising in the Spring Mountain area, joins Oxley just south of Greenbank Military Training Area.

Further north, the eastern tributaries of Sheep Station Gully, Stable Swamp Creek, Moolabin Creek and Rocky Water Holes, flow into the main waterway.

South of the Ipswich Motorway, Blunder Creek with its tributary Hanley's Creek, and the smaller tributaries of Boss, Farley and Ordnance Creeks join Oxley Creek and a short distance north of the Motorway, Little Doris Creek joins the main Oxley Creek.

In the south, elevated land in the headwaters of the catchment is largely covered by dry sclerophyll forest, and in parts is relatively sparsely populated. Land uses include grazing, rural residential, turf farms, and growing pressure from recent intensive urban development in the Spring Mountain and Crewes Creek areas. There are substantial areas of undisturbed vegetation, particularly within the Greenbank Military Training Area.

The mid catchment area, north and south of Johnson Road, contains extremely important vegetation linkages of the 40 km Flinders-Greenbank-Karawatha Corridor. This corridor includes a mosaic of lands under a variety of ownerships, tenures and jurisdictions with the major bushland areas of Flinders Peak, Mount Perry, Spring Mountain, White Rock, Greenbank Military Reserve, Forestdale, Larapinta and Parkinson together with the residential and industrial lands of Heathwood, Pallara and Forest Lake. Vegetation links exist between Blunder and Oxley Creeks in the rural areas of Pallara and Willawong and in these areas this natural vegetation is extremely important, not only for connections but also to stabilise fragile edges. The middle part of Oxley Creek contains the



Willawong Landfill and Transfer Station, current and past sand extraction sites, one of which has been named Paradise Wetlands and is slated for residential development, the decommissioned Inala Sewage Treatment Plant, landfills, the Archerfield Wetland, and Archerfield Airport.

The northern part of the catchment stretching from the junction of Oxley and Blunder creeks to the mouth of Oxley, has vitally important flood plain areas containing golf courses, the 120 ha Oxley Creek Common, Brisbane Markets, and the Oxley Sewage Treatment Plant. To the east lie the well-populated suburbs of Coopers Plains, Salisbury, Rocklea, Acacia Ridge, Archerfield and Moorooka with important residential and industrial areas.

Oxley Creek and its tributaries are recognised for their significant riparian vegetation, which form important local linkages to the wider regional corridor, the Flinders-Greenbank-Karawatha corridor as well as to the Brisbane River.

The variety of landforms and vegetation types in the Oxley Creek catchment promotes biodiversity. Five of the six known species of Glider in Australia are found in the Oxley Creek Catchment. The catchment is also home to other endangered species including the Powerful Owl, the Wallum Froglet and a few specimens of an endangered tree, the Angle-stemmed Myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*).



The little available information on aquatic biodiversity indicates high species diversity in the upper catchment but reduced diversity towards the creek mouth.

The major weeds dominating the lower riparian part of the catchment are Broad-leaved Pepper Tree, Cat's Claw Creeper, and Paragrass. Blunder Creek wetlands and upstream areas also contain Water Hyacinth and Salvinia, Castor Oil Plant and Cestrum. The middle section of the catchment has pockets of Lantana and Salvinia. The upper catchment has fewer riparian and aquatic weeds although Fireweed, which is poisonous to stock, is found in this area.

OCCA's beginnings

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) to establish an Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) program in the Oxley Creek catchment. Permission was granted to trial a pilot urban ICM structure. An Open Day with canoeing, displays, bushwalks, lectures and workshops was held in February 1996 and was followed by a public forum in April 1996 which decided to establish the Oxley Creek Catchment Association and Coordinating Committee whose role included:

- Enhance communication and input to decisions about the creek catchment
- Improve the water quality of Oxley Creek and its tributaries
- Enhance and preserve areas for future use
- Develop and distribute information and increase community awareness

The first meeting of the Oxley Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee was held on 4 July 1996. Bruce Smith was the original Chairperson, Diana Dawson was the Secretary and Rowly Bendall, Development Manager CSR, was the Treasurer. Cathy Ellis from BRMG, became OCCA's first Catchment Coordinator and Tanya Pritchard from Brisbane City Council was the Bushcare Coordinator.

The Brisbane River Management Group received Commonwealth funding to establish a Catchment Coordinating Committee and to prepare and develop plans for the catchment. The Committee commissioned a *'State of the Oxley Creek Catchment Report'* and *'Water and Land-Use Impact and Management Analysis'*. Intensive consultation culminated in the release of the *'Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan'* in early 1999.

In 1999 the Oxley Creek Catchment Association was funded for three years to establish an Integrated Catchment Management approach to management of natural resources in the Oxley Creek catchment in which community, industry and government would work together to make decisions to balance the competing demands on the natural resources of the catchment. Issues of particular concern included:

- sediment and silt build up in the creeks causing depth and water flow changes, affecting aquatic biodiversity, destroying fish habitats, and retaining chemicals and heavy metals
- stormwater, pollution and runoff from roads and gardens, litter and rubbish, and overflows from sewerage systems during heavy rain
- the need for revegetation of riparian zones and degraded areas
- changing land uses.

Establishing an Integrated Catchment Management approach aimed to:

- improve the water quality of Oxley Creek through the promotion of best management practices
- improve riparian habitat and protect and expand vegetation remnants
- reduce streambank erosion and peak flow rates
- foster coordination between landholders, individuals, community, industry and Government agencies in their understanding and management of the catchment's natural resources.

Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan

In 1998-99, one of the first activities of the newly-formed Association was to develop the Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan (OCCMP). Extensive consultation aimed to promote a holistic approach to protecting, enhancing and managing the catchment. The Plan contained the most accurate and timely information available about the condition of the biological, physical and social environment of the Oxley Creek catchment, and identified the major pressures on natural resources

in the catchment, community interests and concerns, community, industry and government responsibilities, and actions necessary to meet environmental objectives.

An initial workshop developed the interim values and vision statement for the Catchment Management Plan for community consultation involving a mail out survey in conjunction with displays and community surveys run in shopping centres and parks throughout the catchment.

In May 1998, technical studies, information from discussions with the three councils and the first round of community surveys were combined to produce the '*Oxley Creek Draft Catchment Management Plan, Discussion Paper, Stage 1 Technical Issues*'. Consultation on this took place in July and early August 1998 via workshops across the Oxley Creek Catchment. A draft Catchment Management Plan was then subject to further consultation and the final Management Plan made available at the end of 1998. Issues raised and addressed in the Catchment Management Plan included flooding, water quality, creek stability, geology and soils and soil erosion. The Catchment Management Plan divided the catchment into eight Catchment Management Units, based on similar geography and issues and made recommendations on the following issues:

- Flooding - the highly urbanised tributaries of the lower Oxley Creek catchment only require short, high intensity storms to produce significant flooding, while the main Oxley Creek channel requires less frequent, long, medium to high intensity rainfall to cause flooding. Storm water runoff control structures and increased vegetation are required to reduce the level and frequency of property flooding.
- Water quality – existing water quality was largely below Brisbane City Council guidelines and was expected to further decline due to increased development and vegetation clearing.
- Erosion - Oxley Creek is an alluvial stream, prone to bank erosion and further down cutting of the stream bed.
- Value - community consultation indicated the importance of waterways to the community with expectations that water quality and amenity will be improved.

The Association was initially a fully endorsed Catchment Coordinating Committee under the Department of Natural Resources and Water Integrated Catchment Management Program but is now an Incorporated Body in its own right and was endorsed as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. In 2006, it was endorsed for charity tax concessions namely Income Tax Exemption, GST Concessions and FBT rebate.

Since OCCA's inception in 1996, it has successfully run a number of projects that have resulted in improvements in the management of the catchment. Revegetation activities are being undertaken, community awareness and educational activities including the 'Know your Creek' booklet, schools education and corporate volunteering programs are thriving, and partnerships with industry through the CreekWatch program and a range of environmental monitoring programs have been established.

Catchment Centre

Initially, the Association was located in State Government offices in Brisbane city centre but in September 1999, the Association moved to offices in the catchment, firstly at the Department of Primary Industries Rocklea Research Farm, and in May 2001, into rooms generously provided by the Brisbane Markets Corporation, later the Brisbane Markets Limited.



In 2014 OCCA was offered the use of a house in Coopers Plains in an area being developed by Consolidated Properties Group Pty Ltd. The Letter of Agreement was signed in early 2015 and in August 2015 OCCA moved into 9 Macdevitt Street, Coopers Plains. At last OCCA had its very own Catchment Centre - a free-standing house and surrounding land. This has enabled OCCA to fulfil a long-standing aim – to bring our office, nursery and Biodiversity Services together in a single location. Our grateful thanks go to Lachlan Grantley and Consolidated Properties Group for providing the house and land.



OCCA's Management

OCCA's current Mission Statement and objectives define OCCA's key focus areas:

Mission: "To protect and enhance the natural environment and resource 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.

OCCA's management approach has changed throughout its 20 years to accommodate interests and resources. For example, in 1998 OCCA established four working groups - Water Cycle, Vegetation, Land use, and Education and awareness. These changed over time as specific issues and interests emerged, for example in 2007 OCCA established four Interest Groups – Biodiversity, Water, Land Use, and People and Communities. These groups have now been incorporated into OCCA's programs for example, the Water Monitoring program is now used to raise awareness of the water quality issues facing the creek system, and the Schools Education and Corporate Volunteering programs help to educate and raise awareness amongst people and within communities.

As a community association, OCCA worked very hard to be inclusive of the range of sectors within the catchment. The original committee of about 15 people contained representatives from community, extractive industry, landfill, general industry, residential development, tertiary education, and State and local governments with the positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer drawn from these representatives. In time this has morphed to a

Management Committee comprising a President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 5 members. Some of the people who were on these committees over the years included:

- Chairperson/President – Bruce Smith, Rowly Bendall, George Deen, Anne Clarke, Doug Collum (elected President in 2006 but sadly died in January 2010), Beryl Roberts, Lynn Whitfield
- Deputy Chairperson/Deputy President - George Deen, Doug Collum, Trevor Armstrong.
- Secretary – Diana Dawson, John Nightingale, Lynn Whitfield, David Kent
- Treasurer - Frank Dingle, Rob Hollingworth, Anne Gribbon, Christine Reith, Anne Clarke
- Representatives/Members – Mick Horan, George Deen, Rowly Bendall, Michelle Hennesey, Ray Ison, Michelle Peile, Debra Manendis, Mike Olsen, Bruce Harper, Amanda Fox, Glen Platt, Noel Cooke, Paul Mack, Wayne Window, Queensland Government, Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council, Jeffrey Harpeng, Julie Lawson, Beryl Roberts, Phil Gunasekara, Chris Jensen, Larissa Mar Fan

Staff

It is impossible to recognise and thank all those who have contributed to OCCA over the years but we need to acknowledge some of them and apologise in advance to those not listed here who have contributed their time and expertise to OCCA in a voluntary or paid capacity over the years. OCCA has been truly fortunate to have had experienced, dedicated and committed staff including:

- Executive Officer – Anne Clarke
- Business Manager – Susan Hodgson
- Bookkeepers – Ken Campbell, Sandy Liddle, Julie Waters-Munns, Melinda McInturff, Amelia Mack
- Partnerships Managers (responsible for Education, Corporate Volunteering and CreekWatch programs) - Julie Sanderson, Anna Bourke, Miriam Nyrene, Larissa Mar Fan, Karen Toms/Amelia Mack
- Project Officers/Program Managers – Shannon Mooney, Scott Hetherington, Phil Gunasekara
- Biodiversity Services Managers - Peter Michael, Robert Scott, Steve Buttegeig, Robyn Gray, John Gowland, Chris Jensen.
- Catchment Coordinators - Cathy Ellis, Bryan Green, Brooke Hynch, Kelly Hudson, Helen Fry
- Creek Rangers/Creek Catchment Officers (provided by Brisbane City Council) - Kylie Withers, Scott Oertel, Julie Sanderson, Leah Hattendorf, Sean Marler, Adam Richardt, Donna Edwards

Volunteers

Volunteers are an essential part of any not-for-profit group such as OCCA and we have been fortunate over the last 20 years to have enjoyed the skills, knowledge, expertise and time of many community-minded people in the catchment, both working in the field and in our office.

The CreekCare team coordinated by Noel Standfast has over the years included Phil Kyle, Craig Toms, Brian MacDonald, Don Marsh, Trevor Armstrong, Marie Hollingworth, Dorothy Watson, Mary Lou Simpson, Harold Davis, Richard Thompson, Alistair MacTaggart, Trevor Scott, Edward

Greenaway, Mike Scanlan, Sam Whittington-Mitchell, Sammy DeWit, Julie Biddulph, Mary Lou Simpson, Carly Murphy, Zoe Burkis, Teresa Lynch, and the late Cam McPhee.

Brian MacDonald and Don Marsh also found time to support us with tasks in the OCCA office.

OCCA's Nursery, facilitated by Beryl Roberts, started in 1999 in the Nyanda State High School's disused nursery in Salisbury and is now running smoothly in MacDevitt Street, Coopers Plains, supported by a band of committed volunteers including Ingrid Jakobsen, Jill Ridgway, Bronwyn Willmott, Richard Thompson, Wayne Brown, Sam Franklin, Lois Iddon and the late Cam McPhee.

Our library was catalogued by Desley Soden helped by Huy Tran.

Many other people have assisted us in the office helping with GIS work, photography, data presentation, newsletters, website, publications including Scott Lawrence, Piya Sansee, Lee-Anne Veage, Harry Pham, Thanh Nguyen, Ji-eun Lee, Stephen Cheung, Sonia Cahill, Michael Farrell, Jeff Eaton, Nicci Window, Matthew Lokhurst Priyanka Patel, Nimisha Patel, Anitha Chinniah, Ria Henshaw, Nigel Dowe, Sheila Vernon and Sean Dang.

Volunteers are vital for the monitoring programs coordinated by Phil Gunasekara. These volunteers included Kaitlyn Stutz, Meera Joyce, Thomas Cobban, Andrew Irwin, Christine Reith, Doris Gonzalez, Trish Worland, Oliver Mitchell, Tiffany Norrie, Sarah Chapman, Brendan Burmeister, Nigel Paragreen, Felipe Saavedra, Carol Nouwens, Natasha Teffer, Marie Kanikarla, Fiona McKenzie-Smith, Kianee Fidler, Michelle Field, Kathleen Brander, Shane Lamond, Daniel Foster, Anna Bourke, Son Dang, Genna Apted, Sue Hodgson, Mike Ferguson, Miriam Nyrene, Robyn Gray, Anthony Delfau, Karen Delfau, Alexandra Vaynberg, Leah Hattendorff, Julie Lawson, Jim Neal, Banita Sharma, and Jessica Roffey.

Students

The participation of students on internships and undertaking projects also provided OCCA with extra hours assisting many of our programs and we are most grateful for these student's dedication and commitment. OCCA has worked with Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland to provide students with meaningful work experience and course projects. Over this last 12 months, these relationships have produced:

- Projects addressing OCCA governance, the use of social media, resource materials, linkages with environment groups and local governments, indicators to measure community engagement, and development of a member survey, by the University of Queensland environment and community students
- Development of a Business Plan for Biodiversity Services by University of Queensland business and law students
- Support for OCCA administration, Biodiversity Services, CreekCare, and environmental monitoring projects from Griffith University students
- A short video of OCCA activities, a phone app for Biodiversity Services, help with litter surveys, review of the Integrated Management Strategy, and a revised website design by students in the Queensland University of Technology International Student Volunteering Initiative.



OCCA staff and volunteers at the 2014 Christmas Party in Les Atkinson Park

Some of the students who have undertaken valuable projects for OCCA include Andrew McVinish, Gretchen Bos, Jaegun Lee, Hubert Mhangami, Luis Varney, Matthew Hall, Larissa Zesch, Nina Mulder, Caroline Gilbert, Daniel Jonas, Sinead Liu, Ally Kombo, Marie, Kanikarla, Bernadette Nicotra, Anna Vassiliou, Sharon Rodriguez, Christine Reith Anastazia Ludwig Amelia Groves, Jackson Schultz, Ben Hyland, Brendan Fugate, Mahealani Delaney, Wade Janine, Connor Bennett, Bill Oakes, Surendran Subramaniam, Tatiana Glukhova, Jaspreet Kaur, Zhen Ran Yung, Wasula Kumbukage, Juan Zuniga, Huy Quang Pham, Yi Wang, Parisa Khademolhosseini, Yasaswi enkumahanti, John Byron Garcia Llanos, Roshan Pius, Khun Yi Chua, Joo Wong, Shuyang Ao, Bich Tram Huynh, Jessica Mariane Pinto, and Shashank Kouloorkar

Partners and supporters

Over the last 20 years OCCA has been fortunate to have the support of a wide range of businesses, community groups, Federal government, State government departments, local governments, politicians and educational establishments within the Oxley Creek catchment.

OCCA's committed industry partners through the award-winning CreekWatch Program included:

- Martina Glenn from BlueScope Steel instigated the award winning CreekWatch pollution prevention program in Acacia Ridge, and her colleague Clive Taylor worked with OCCA to develop the program
- Dale Seeto and Gavin Hilton from CSR Gyprock and Fibre Cement have been CreekWatch partners from its inception

- Peter Holden at Dulux has supported OCCA’s work in raising awareness of flooding issues and has presented Dulux’s flooding experiences as a case study at a number of workshops
- Peter Schultz and Isabel Mau at Sims Metal Management have supported Clean Up Australia Day activities
- Robert Britliff and Warren Knight at BOC
- Vicky Dawson and Dave Osborne from rockPRESS, a recent CreekWatch partner provided signs for CreekWatch partners and Biodiversity Services
- Phil Abernethy at Absorb Environmental Solutions provided spill management kits for Biodiversity Services and training for local businesses
- Andrew Young and Alison Campbell at Brisbane Markets Limited provided office accommodation and supported the Peaks to Points Festival
- Pam Anderson from the Construction Training Centre provided storage facilities for Biodiversity Services
- Kyley Mitchell from SkillsTECH
- Mark Dekker and Lacey Webb from BMI Resource Recovery

Partners, supporters and program participants over the years have included:

Industry and business:

Absorb Environmental Services	DownerEDI	OneSteel Queensland Pty Ltd
Archerfield Airport Corporation	Dulux	Oxley Golf Club
Australand Pty Ltd	Energex	Palmer Tube Mills
Bank Australia	EPAIR Pty Ltd	Phillips Groups Pty Ltd
Big Country Endurance Riders	Gainscow Holdings Pty Ltd	Queensland Rail
Bligh Tanner	GHD Group	Queensland Urban Utilities
BlueScope Steel	Graceville Apartments	rockPRESS – Rocklea
BMI Resource Recovery	Greenbank Rural Fire Brigade	Pressed Metal
BOC	Groundworks	Sanitarium
Brisbane Golf Club	Hall Constructions Pty Ltd	SkillsTech
Brisbane Markets Limited	Holcim Pty Ltd	Sony
Bunnings	Landcare	South West Stationers
Cleanaway	Lockwood Whitco Pty Ltd	Telstra
Coca Cola Amatil	Mary Maher and Associates	Thiess Services
Construction Training Centre	Metalcorp	Wanless Group Inc.
Corinda Golf Club	Melow Pty Ltd	Warapar Pty Ltd
CSR Construction Materials and Resources	Motorway Business Park Pty Ltd	Weston Bioproducts
CSR Gyprock		Westpac
Delfin Limited		

State and local governments:

- Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Brisbane City Council
- Ipswich City Council
- Logan City Council

- Beaudesert Shire Council

Environment/community groups:

Australian and New Guinea Freshwater Fishes Assoc.	Friends of Stable Swamp Creek	Pallara/Willawong Bushcare Group
Australian Marine Conservation Society Inc	Gaddes Park Bushcare Group	Pamphlett Sea Scouts
Benarrawa Park Bushcare Group	Karawatha Forest Protection Society	Pennywort Creek Bushcare Group
Blunder Creek Bushcare Group	Len Atkinson Park Bushcare Group	Sheep Station Gully Bushcare Group
Cliveden Recreation Reserve Bushcare Group	Nosworthy Park Bushcare Group	Strickland Terrace Bushcare Group
Coopers Plains Local History Group	Oxley Creek Environment Group Inc	Toohey Forest Protection Society
Faulkner Park Bushcare Group		Wolston and Centenary Catchments
Friends of Sherwood Arboretum Inc.		

In the last 20 years OCCA has worked with primary and secondary schools including:

Acacia Ridge State School	Inala West Special School	St Margaret's Girls School
Australian International Islamic College	Indooroopilly State High School	St Marks Catholic School, Inala
Brisbane Boys College	Nyanda State High School	St Peters Lutheran College
Brisbane State High School	Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Darra	St Pius X, Salisbury
Calamvale Community College	Pallara State School	St Stephens School, Alger
Corinda State School	Richlands East State School	St Thomas More College
Corinda State High School	Robertson State School	The Murri School, Acacia Ridge
Durack State School	Rocklea State School	Watson Road State School
Forest Lake College	Sherwood State School	Wellers Hill State School
Forest Lake High School	Southside Christian College	Woodridge State High School
Forest Lake State School	St Aidan's Anglican Girls School	Yeronga State School
Graceville State School	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Corinda	Yeronga State High School
Grand Avenue State School		
Greenbank State School		
Inala West State School		

OCCA has also hosted activities for tertiary students from:

- Yokkaichi University, Japan
- Nihon University, Japan
- South Bank Institute of Technology
- Griffith University

OCCA also gives talks to community groups, industry associations and governments. Most of these are done by Anne Clarke who has a wealth of knowledge of the history of development in the catchment and the impacts that the creeks have suffered over the years, but other members and staff including Beryl Roberts and Phil Gunasekara have also given to a wide range of organisations including community, gardening, environment and church groups, Returned Services Leagues, Probud, Rotary and Lions Clubs, and primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions.

General meetings

For over ten years OCCA has had a program of regular meetings with noted speakers which are open to the public. Over the years these have included:

- Tonia Giobbi, Brisbane City Council on Integrated Water Management and activities within the Oxley Creek Catchment.
- Warwick Willmott, Department of Natural Resources and Mines on catchment geology.
- Officers from the Department of Primary Industries on fire ant control and protocols.
- Helen Abrahams, The Gabba Ward Councillor, on biodiversity and sustainability.
- David Niland, Birds Queensland on the birds of the Oxley Creek Common.
- Ric Natrass on dragonflies.
- Western Corridor Recycled Water Pipeline Project.
- Local Growth Management Strategy for Brisbane City Council area.
- Techniques for dealing with the weeds of our waterways.
- Alistair McTaggart, Department of Primary Industries on micro-fungi and plant communities.
- Biosecurity Queensland, and Petra Skoien, Weed Warriors on Cat's Claw Creeper control.
- David Sparks on OCCA revegetation policy and fauna surveys.
- Dr Ian Johnson, Department of Primary Industries, on biological control of Lantana.
- Peter Michael on OCCA's Biodiversity Services projects.
- Diane Tarte, Healthy Waterways on the report card and the future and issues of Oxley Creek.
- Mary Maher and Lynne Turner on climate change and global impacts.
- Professor Margaret Greenway, Griffith University, on "*Wetlands, waterways, ponds and bio-retention systems: Nature knows best*".
- Don Gibson, Conservation Volunteers Australia, on "partnering with CVA.
- Mark Dekker, Transpacific Industries Group, on future plans for the Transpacific site.
- Karen Delfau on Community Based Social Marketing.
- Dr Piet Filet, Healthy Waterways Partnership, on the 2010 Report Card for Oxley Creek.
- Grant Witheridge, Griffith University, on flooding damage and lessons learnt.
- Paul Belz and Zane Tomlins, Queensland Urban Utilities, on the impacts of the 2011 floods on the Oxley Sewage Treatment Plant.
- Dr Bill McDonald, Queensland Herbarium on Ecological Restoration on Lord Howe Island.
- Matthew Reddy, International River Foundation, on Integrated River Basin Management.
- Pauline Sinclair from "FloodFish", on developing the *Preparing for a Natural Disaster* guide
- Karen Brook, Wildlife Queensland on the results of glider monitoring in the Flinders-Greenbank-Karawatha Corridor
- Debra Henry, Ocean Watch, on the Mangrove Watch Program.
- Dr Justine Kemp, Australian Rivers Institute, on the flood history of the Brisbane River.
- Clytie Binder, Growing Communities, on promotion of sustainable and healthy living.
- Maryanne Thompson, Treehenge, on the Treehenge degraded land rehabilitation project.
- Darryl Jones, Griffith University on fauna movement solutions in Australia and overseas.
- Donald Mackenzie, Logan City Council on the Logan Rivers and Wetlands Recovery Program.
- Sidonie Carpenter, Green Canopy on vegetated roofs or walls.
- Megan Prance on fungi.

- Bill Manners, Brisbane City Council, on BCC’s pest plant and animal management.
- Tony Webber, BMT WMB Pty Ltd, on issues, impacts and improvements of Oxley Creek.
- Peter Dunn on Military locations around Oxley Creek catchment during World War II”.
- Misko Ivesich, Alluvium on stream processes and restoration.
- Matt Cecil, Wildlife Queensland, on Glider Monitoring Network and research.
- Michael Fox, Mt Gravatt Environment Group, on Pollinator Link.
- David Niland, Birds Queensland, on Citizen Science through bird surveys.

Awards

OCCA has won awards for its education, industry, and community programs and projects.

In 2002 OCCA was a finalist in the Healthy Waterways Awards Community Section for its “Mayfly” community art project.

In April 2004 the Molly’s Dream CD was the winner of the Schools section of the Healthy Waterways Awards 2003. This very successful project made possible by an application to the Gaming Community Benefit Committee resulted in a CD of nine delightful songs written in collaboration between teachers and students at two local schools with OCCA artists, officers and volunteers.

The Oxley Creek Water Festival 2004 was a finalist in the Healthy Waterways Awards for 2005.

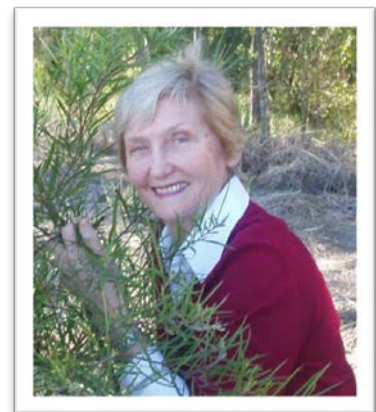
In 2008 OCCA and partners received two awards for the CreekWATCH program:

1. Healthy Waterways Brisbane Airport Corporation Community Award
2. Channel 10/Telstra Environment Award.

Also in 2008, Anne Clarke, one of OCCA’s founders and a previously long-standing President was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her outstanding efforts for the catchment and its communities.

In October 2008 Acacia Ridge State School years 6 and 7 students received the Lord Mayor’s Catchment Kids Cup for their performance of ‘*Sugar Gliders of Oxley Creek – The Musical*’ which was all about protecting our environment for the sake of the Sugar Glider, and received \$500 towards an environmental project for their school and a twinning project with a school in Madagascar.

OCCA was a finalist in the 2009 Healthy Waterways Brisbane Airport Community Award for its CreekWatch industry partnership program.



In 2009 OCCA was awarded the International River Foundation's National Riverprize in recognition of its partnership activities. This partnership approach supports the majority of OCCA's activities and enables OCCA members to undertake valuable work in the catchment with a wide range of State and local government, business, industry and community partners.



In 2010 Anne Clarke won the CSIRO National Research Flagships – Waterways Champion Award acknowledging her on-going passion and long-time commitment to improving the health of Brisbane's waterways. Also in 2010 the Construction Training Centre was a finalist in the Industry Award category of the Healthy Waterways Awards for its work restoring part of Rocky Water Holes.

In 2012 OCCA received a Lord Mayor's Greenheart Award for the Peaks to Points Festival.

In the 2013 Landcare Awards, OCCA was awarded a Highly Commended in the Qantas Landcare Innovative Community Group Award category.

Submissions made

One of OCCA's roles is to advocate for the environment on behalf of the Oxley Creek catchment and it does so through meeting with relevant authorities and providing submissions on specific issues, legislation and planning proposals.

In 2007 OCCA made submissions on the Western Corridor Recycled Water Pipeline Project on the need for protection of key vegetation areas and creeks, and consideration of sediment control and acid sulphate soils, and the Environmental Impacts Study for the Southern Regional Pipeline Project.

In 2010 OCCA made submissions on planning and rehabilitation issues associated with:

- The Sherwood/Graceville District Neighbourhood Plan
- Larapinta Motorway Business Park
- Paradise Wetland residential development application
- Draft Queensland Greenspace Strategy
- Darra to Rocklea Ipswich Motorway upgrade
- SEQ Regional Plan Paradise Wetlands
- Proposed Brisbane Boys College playing fields at Cliveden Avenue
- Flood Commission of Inquiry
- Urban Land Development Authority development application at Teviot Downs, Greenbank
- Johnson Road upgrade

- Upgrade of facilities at the Department of Defence Greenbank Military Training Area

In 2011 OCCA made a submission on the proposed Stockland residential development at Paradise Wetlands.

In 2012 OCCA made submissions regarding the Lower Oxley Creek South Neighbourhood Plan. Also in 2012 OCCA, having made an objection to the original Stockland application became a co-respondent in the case along with Ace Waste and the Queensland Government, raising concerns about the density of dwellings, flooding, air quality, ecology, wildlife movement and habitat, contaminated land and pre-empting of the neighbourhood planning process.

In 2013 OCCA made submissions about the Brisbane City Council Draft City Plan, and changes to Natural Assets Local Law policy and BCC local laws.

Throughout 2014 OCCA made several submissions and representations including:

- Yeerongpilly Transport Oriented Development for use by OCCA of the heritage buildings retained as part of the development of the site.
- Richlands State School - OCCA made a submission for use of the buildings on the school site.
- Forest Lake Community Hub - for use of the facilities as a catchment centre. Brisbane City Council has yet to release a formal Expression of Interest request.
- Leasing of the 'high land' on the Oxley Creek Common.
- Draft Logan Planning Scheme.
- Draft Brisbane City Plan 2014.

In 2015 OCCA made submissions to:

- Stockland regarding the rehabilitation plan for the natural areas along Oxley Creek.
- The Inquiry into the Register of Environmental Organisations.

Representation

OCCA is a member of key umbrella groups addressing the natural environment within and around the Oxley Creek catchment.

Lord Mayor's Oxley Creek Task Force

The non-statutory Oxley Creek Task Force was officially established in May 2006 with representation from OCCA, Brisbane, Logan and Ipswich local governments, State government departments and industry and environmental groups. The Task Force is a non-statutory advisory group which aims to create linkages and cooperation to achieve outcomes. A key focus of the Taskforce is to make changes in practices so that the Healthy Waterways Report Card for Oxley Creek will change from "F" to a "D" rating by 2016, and further improve to a "C" by 2026. Unfortunately, this aim has not been met and Oxley Creek continues to have poor water quality.

In 2013 the Task Force was re-organised and refocussed on environmental (rather than planning and economic development) issues, with priority to Archerfield Wetlands, erosion management works at Sheep Station Gully and Vied Road, and revegetation and weed management at Brookbent Road.

In 2014 the Brisbane City Council started to develop a 20 year Oxley Creek Vision based on existing planning documents and previous community consultation. OCCA provided comments on a draft in early 2015. In 2016 the Council committed to a 20 year, \$100 Million vision for environmental and economic development of Oxley Creek and adjacent land between the mouth of the Brisbane River and the boundary with Logan City Council at Johnson Road.

Brisbane Catchments Network (BCN)

The BCN is a partnership of catchment and landcare groups across Brisbane. In 2014 BCN established a website providing information on all member groups as well as resources to support catchment management planning and actions. In 2015 BCN developed a Biodiversity Strategy and a Pest Management Strategy, and continued rehabilitation works at Colmslie and Queensport Rocks.

Summary

The Oxley Creek Catchment Association has grown and developed as the issues within the catchment have changed or emerged. There is still much to be done. This short “history” provides an overview of much of the dedicated hard work, community lobbying and intensive skill sharing that has been undertaken over the past two decades within the catchment. Ideas, enthusiasm, skills and lessons learned have been readily shared with other catchment groups to enhance positive outcomes further afield.

Our hope is that younger generations will continue to take on catchment-care tasks to ensure that the waterways and natural areas of the Oxley Creek catchment can not only become healthy, but remain that way and provide diverse habitats to support our native fauna and for future generations to enjoy.

