



THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUMMARY OF 24 May 2022 WORKING GROUP MEETING

It was fantastic to see so many people come together for our first working group meeting including State Member for Cooper Jonty Bush, representatives of local groups such as SOWN and Yooralla Community Gardens, local schools, content experts such as electrical engineers, and ecologist, and interested residents keen to contribute to our local environment.

The three working groups will now start action on the three projects TGSi has proposed for wider community support:

- 1) *Elevate use of existing sustainability capabilities in the community*
- 2) *The Platypus Project*
- 3) *Electricity Independence.*

Draft project that had been prepared by Conor and were available for groups 1 and 2, and we also had prepared Terms Of Reference for the working groups to guide the activities. The discussions were lively and focussed around key stakeholders that need to be involved, enablers and barriers to action, and strategic approaches to move towards action.

There were lots of excellent ideas raised, including :

- 1) How to enhance exiting capabilities: ideas included how to raise memberships and volunteers for local environmental groups; help the High School to increase its sustainability footprint; create interest by developing virtual reality immersion games; counselling to reduce energy waste; educational resources about energy production using solar.
- 2) How to bring the Platypus back to The Gap: discussed all the many activities around creek habitat that would be necessary to achieve this, such as determining what suitable platypus habitat looks like; barriers/what needs to change in Enoggera/Fish Creek to make viable habitat; how platypus habitat impacts local communities (both positive and negative) and how to build a business case;
- 3) Electricity Independence: discussed how to achieve environment and community determined objectives from energy sources that could also generate financial returns that could be re-invested in sustainability-focussed activities in The Gap.

Each group will continue to progress these workstreams over the next few months. Please come along and share your views with one of the groups, or volunteer in one of the groups faciliatory roles.

Upcoming Events

- **Next fundraising event** will be on Saturday the 18th June at Bunnings Keperra. We are looking for volunteers to help in two hour shifts between 7.15am and 3.30pm. Please contact us if you can help with the barbecue or if you have any questions or suggestions on thegapsustainability@gmail.com.
- **Next education seminar** will be held on the 21th June at The Gap State Primary School. Our guest speaker is Justine Ohlrich (BSci in Zoology and Ecology, First Class honours) who will inform us about the Platypus. Justine is passionate about all egg-laying mammals and intends to focus her PhD on these animals.





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- **Next project working group** meeting will be on the 19th of July at The Gap State Primary School.

MEMBERSHIP: Thank you to all those who have already initiated their membership, we continue our invitation to join. The membership fee is \$5 per annum to cover costs such as insurance, website hosting fee, room hire and facilitated meetings. Please use our Bank Account Name: The Gap Sustainability BSB124001 Account No: 23277186 and send us your name, DOB, and address to thegapsustainability@gmail.com for the membership registry.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website www.thegapsustainability.org. We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com).



May working group meeting

Yours sincerely, The Gap Sustainability Initiative team

