



SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GAP

Newsletter 9—Controlled burning



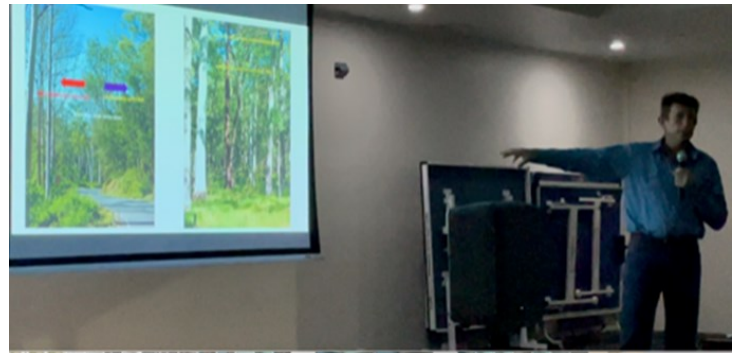
COMMUNITY SEMINAR SERIES

7.30 PM @ TAYLOR RANGE COUNTRY CLUB

28 Greenlanes Rd, Ashgrove QLD 4060

This Wednesday we had the most insightful evening. Apologies to those that wanted to join by zoom, which did not work. We placed video snippets of the event on our [website](#) so you can revisit some of the main points made. First, we heard about TerraCycle, a global company specialising in hard-to-recycle waste, who runs free recycling programs and offers people the opportunity to recycle products that should not be placed in the yellow bin, such as toothcare products, used pens or razors. There are multiple sites in The Gap that collect such items for example, Payne Road State School. Please check the [TerraCycle website](#) for the nearest location.

Our guest presenter for the evening was Mr Dave Kingdon, who shared his deep knowledge about the value of planned and controlled burning and who works indigenous communities on Stradbroke island to restore the health of their ancient forests. Dave explained that controlled



burning is different from backburning which is often done at the wrong time of the year and with fire that is too hot and therefore does not allow the bush to regenerate. Controlled burns follow the seasons and moisture patterns and has a valuable effect on forests, especially eucalyptus, because it regenerates grasses underneath the tree that then take up a lot of nitrogen from the soil. He explained that eucalyptus trees can be negatively impacted by nitrogen-rich soils and that regular cold burns encourage health soils and support wildlife. Nitrogen-rich soil make arsenic available to the trees which damages their roots and symbiotic fungi. At the same time leaf eating insects attach to the vulnerable tree which is followed by bell miners who farm the leaf eating insect leading to the tree's death.

What can people in the Gap do? If you have a larger yard then and planned burning is not possible, use mechanical ways to keep it clear and the understory free of too many small scrubs and trees. For example pick up sticks and bark, and grow healthy grasses underneath the gumtrees. You can also clean your gutters regularly and contact your local city council if the vegetation neighbouring your house or a public area in The Gap needs attention. Finally, inform yourself about the role of planned burning for the health of the bush and be sympathetic if smoke from these activities is impacting you on certain days of the year.

What is next?

Our next community forum event will be different. We will hold a barbeque on Sunday the 21st November from 9.30 am to 12.30pm at the Walton Bridge Lions Park (next to the police station).

Purpose?

It will be a great opportunity for you to help us plan the events for next year by sharing what you are interested in. There will be an informative short nature walk (e.g. where you can identify certain species of plants and trees), arts and crafts activities, and of course a sausage and chat.

Actions?

Please [RSVP as it is essential](#) for our catering purposes. We look forward to see you there and celebrate our first year anniversary with us.

Kind Regards, The Gap Sustainability Initiative

For interesting news and resources, please visit our website: thegapsustainability.org