



# THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



## COMMUNITY NEWS: February 2023

Platypus are certainly amongst the most fascinating animals in the world. Our guest speaker Tamielle Brunt took us on rapid history of the Platypus, including to dreamtime stories, discovery of their egg laying, and the additional insights gained by modern research such as rapid discovery of genetic materials in waterways that indicate whether Platypus are present or not. Tamielle importantly reiterated the ten actions every individual can take to improve the chances of Platypus returning to The Gap such as reducing water use, cleaning up rubbish that might end up in the creek, rehabilitate native vegetation in your garden and along the creeks, and responsible pet ownership. Tamielle runs the PlatypusWatch project officer for Wildlife Queensland and asks us to report any sightings we may make, regardless of the location. In addition to these actions, community organisations and citizen scientists can play a major role in understanding whether the habitat is suitable by observing water quality and depth in the local creeks throughout the years, and understanding the impact of developments and community actions on the chances for Platypus to be reinstated in the Gap.

This was our first event at The Gap High School which is a fantastic venue, and has a very accommodating set up with air-conditioning and presentation technology.

### NEXT EVENTS:

On the 21th of March, TGSi will hold its next working group meeting at The Gap High School Library.

The Community Energy Group was busy over the last few weeks exploring the federal government's community battery scheme and whether TGSi could apply to host such a battery. However, this requires very complex issues such as legal, technical and health and safety issues to be resolved that are beyond our capabilities as a small charitable organisation. We could however play a role in informing the community about the benefits or drawbacks of battery systems, and have provided a letter of support for a large company that may apply for the grant, and is interested in a community partners.

The Platypus group has received data about the water quality in Enoggera Creek that needs to be analysed, and actions as recommended by Tamielle need to be prioritised.

The enhancing existing capabilities group wants to provide information, support and guidance to people in the Gap community who want to lead a more sustainable lifestyle, and is considering a redesign of our current website to make it more easily accessible.

There are several grant opportunities being worked on for which we either provided letters of support or are considering whether we could be a partner. It's exciting to get to know all these different avenues in which sustainability can be increased in the future.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Thank you very much or the many new members who sent their details thorough over the last month. Its very much appreciated and we warmly welcome all of those new members. If you are intersted, the membership fee is \$5 per financial year (increasing to \$20 next financial year) 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](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com) for the membership registry. We **only need 6 more members** to achieve tax deductible status.





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## FUNDRAISING:

TGSI now is an official fundraising team with Containers for Change. Please consider donating your refund to our cause by using our Scheme ID: C10826699.

We have been assigned the Keperra Bunnings Barbecue for the 1<sup>st</sup> July. Pls place a placeholder in your diary if you are willing to help for 3 hours either morning or afternoon shift.

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

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

**Yours sincerely,** The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee



Photos: Tamielle Brunt, PlatypusWatch project officer for Wildlife Queensland at the seminar

