



THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



COMMUNITY NEWS: March 2023

TGSI held a very productive and well attended **working group meeting** on the 21th of March. Each working group reflected on the latest achievements and looked at actions ahead for the next few months.

1) The **Community Energy Independence** project recently looked at the Federal Government Community Battery Grant scheme, but the conditions and short timeframes prohibited us applying for the scheme. Instead, we provided a letter of support to Energex offering to undertake some of the community engagement and education around the benefits and barriers to community batteries should the bid be successful. There will be additional community battery grants offered by the federal government under the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) portfolio soon. There are initiatives underway to support community groups to increase the chance of success in these grants by various community organisations supporting the transition to renewable energy), which we will draw information from.

2) The **Platypus Project** reported that Seqwater data has been received for use by the group to study the water quality of Enoggera creek in comparison with Gold Creek where Platypus are still thriving. If you have expertise in analysing large datasets and would like to help- please be in contact with the team. The next steps for the group will be: analysing the data and reflecting on it with Platypus expert Tamielle Brunt, identifying pools of interest in the creek with the help of SOWN and start implementing a monitoring program, continue outreach and education. Andrew Turley created an excellent six step infographic about the activities needed to improve the creek conditions for Platypus. There was also the suggestion to create a "I support the platypus project" sign that people can place on their fences or windows to increase the visibility of the project in the suburb and create conversation starts amongst friends and neighbours.

3) The **Enhancing Existing Capabilities** group was visited by Joan Winter, who would like to get a verge garden planting project underway. The idea is to find two blocks of streets on either side of The Gap and see if the residents would like to increase the verge garden tree cover and maybe also plant grasses and bushes to improve the habitat for the local wildlife and decrease runoff into the creeks. This would be a stand-alone one year project. Joan has discussed with Brisbane City Council who will be supporting the planting in autumn 2024 if suitable locations can be identified. Over the next 12 months the following steps would need to be undertaken: identify the best locations with the least tree cover, send letterbox mail to residents, undertake community conversations, and achieve community agreement of the majority of selected residents, liaise with Council about proposed locations, Council assessment of suitability given services underground, planting, watering and caring for the new plants. If you are interested to form part of the team who drive this verge garden project please be in contact.

Other aims are to improve or website and communication media for which we are currently drafting a grant proposal, and to liaise with real-estate agents in The Gap to greet new residents and let them know about the local community groups, their aims, and opportunities to become involved.

Thank you to the Gap High Scholl for making us so welcome and offering the library space for our meetings, which is very comfortable, with great technology.

NEXT EVENTS:

On the **18th of April**, TGSI's next community seminar will be on the topic of riparian revegetation. Our guest speaker will be **Mr Leo Lee, the president of SOWN**. We are very excited to hear Leo speak as he has initiated





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the Enoggera Catchment Creek Health Monitoring, and has collected data that can inform the likelihood of our Platypus rewilding project succeeding. Water quality, vegetation coverage of creek banks, and suitable habitat free of predators and disturbance are all critical for the Platypus.

On the **16th May** we will then hold our next working group meeting.

Please keep the **1st July** free as we will be hosting a **barbecue fundraiser** at The Keperra Bunnings to raise funds for our insurance – we will need up to 10 volunteers to help out on the day. Please reach out if you can help.

MEMBERSHIP:

If you have not yet done so, please consider becoming a member - we just need another 15 members to be eligible to a tax-deductible charitable status. 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 for the membership registry.

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Please stay updated about our activities by visiting our website www.thegapsustainability.org. We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

Yours sincerely, The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee

