



# THE GAP SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE INC.



## COMMUNITY NEWS: OCTOBER 2023

October turned out to be a very busy month for us.

Out of the numerous volunteer organisations in Australia, **we were chosen** as one of only two in Queensland and one of just ten across the country for [mentoring by the Rewiring Australia team](#).. Genevieve, Mark, Michael, and Monika attended the first group meeting. It was fascinating to hear about the diversity of activities that groups in different states are embarking on. There are now discussions about a great variety of topics and we learned that there was a recent senate enquiry about electrifying households which has [many submissions](#) that are worthwhile reading about.

We welcomed [Dr Gilad Bino](#), from the UNSW, as our seminar speaker on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Gilad is an ecologist with extensive experience in Platypus research. Gilad shared with us the five-step plan that was followed to re-introduce Platypus successfully into Royal National Park in NSW. Partnerships (e.g., with WWF and Taronga Zoo), community engagement, and scientific knowledge were all critical to make sure the habitat was suitable and the Platypus would thrive.

Also on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, we attended a **large stakeholder meeting about protecting platypus in SEQ and bringing it back to The Gap, and the Enoggera Creek health**. Representatives from government and non-government organisations, RSPCA, Watergum, Brisbane City Council, wildlife carers and scientists came together to assess the current evidence surrounding Platypus sightings in Enoggera Creek, hear from currently ongoing initiatives and share strategic plans, and discuss how to best move forward in a logical and clear order to make Enoggera Creek habitable again. Leo Lee, SWON president, our guest speaker in August, has made it clear that one of the most pressing issues we need to address first is to restore the food chain from aquatic plants to microorganisms and macroinvertebrates to have any chance of Platypuses finding the environment habitable. It will take all parts of the community to work together to achieve our aim, and the meeting that was hosted by the Walkabout Creek Discovery Centre, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Partnerships, Department of Environment and Science was a first and very important step. Thank you to all involved.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October, some members, high school students and the wider community were fortunate to have the **Brisbane Climate Fresk volunteer team** guide us through the game at The Gap State High School. This game is an eyeopener and highlights just how interrelated all components of the climate are and the complexity of the system. There were many standout moments during the night, but most rewarding was to see the students from The Gap High School participating and coming up with solutions for future generations. Thank you to Rex Betrand Science Reacher and a/Deputy Principal for encouraging the students to attend and The High School for hosting the event.

As we celebrate numerous achievements and progress in all our projects, we would greatly appreciate it if any of our members could step-up to help advance one or more of these activities.. For example, for the Platypus projectis looking for volunteers to help map the creek (where are waterholes, how deep are they, how does it change over the year), organise macroinvertebrate surveys, possibly in collaboration with the local schools, and help organise community events.





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The Energy group is looking for people who would like to organise community events informing residents in The Gap about the community battery which will soon be installed, and about ways they can benefit from the electrification of their households.

The enhancing existing capabilities group would like to take advantage of our soon to be released new website by [Absolute Media](#) which is almost complete and is looking for people who would create content such as blogs, and social media items.

We are also needing people to **help with our fundraising barbecue at Keperra Bunnings** on the 5th November, pls let us know if you can make it, even just for a couple of hours.

If you would like to offer your help or have any questions, please email [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com)

**Member T-Shirts:** If you are interested in a The Gap Sustainability Initiative branded T-Shirt, please let us know, they will be ready for distribution next week. [thegapsustainability@gmail.com](mailto:thegapsustainability@gmail.com)

## Upcoming events and activities:

In November we will be participating in the [150 years Uniting Church celebrations](#) and will be presenting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Sustainability evening 6-9pm at the Uniting Church. Hope you can come along or meet us at the market day on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 3-6pm Uniting church car park.

## NEXT EVENTS:

2nd November: 150 years The Gap uniting church – [sustainability evening](#)

4th November: 150 years The Gap uniting church festival

5th November: Fundraising Barbecue Bunnings

21st November: AGM and informal get together, finger food and drinks

2nd December: Social barbecue – tentative

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE:

If you have not yet done so, please consider becoming a member. The membership fee for FY24 is \$20 to cover costs such as website maintenance, administration, project costs, 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. Existing members due for renewal pls also use the bank account to transfer your membership fee or use your credit card with our tap and go Square reader at the next forum. Many thanks.

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

**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](#).

Yours sincerely, The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee





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Below image from the Platypus seminar with guest speaker Dr Gilad Bino

