

May 2024 Newsletter

This Tuesday's seminar covered the topic of street trees. We heard from Sitara and Cath from Brisbane City Council and local resident and TGS member Sue Moller, who initiated our street tree TLC program. Some interesting facts: Brisbane City council aims for 50% shade cover for footpaths and cycleways by 2030. Street trees will play a major role in achieving this and so council is planting more than 13,000 trees each year. Council is focussing on areas with less than 30% tree cover which The Gap doesn't fall into, but [The Gap residents can still request trees in front of their house individually](#). Council contractors will look after the newly planted trees for a year, but Council relies on residents to let them know if a tree looks unwell, or needs more care or they observe lack of care by the contractors. To answer the question of why some non-native species are still being planted, Sitara and Cath explained to us that in some areas there are traditional aggregations of certain tree types which are being continued – such as Pontsianas and Jacarandas in New Farm, African Tulip Trees in Moorooka and that there are some trees that have historical or shade value and are being kept despite being “weed” trees. As example, a mature Chinese Elm in The Gap which shades a bus stop was mentioned, which is kept as it provides major amenity. Every few years there is a survey done to assess pruning needs, and crews then come around. They do not prune more than a maximum of 20% of the tree and only to provide safety. However Energex may do additional pruning for safety reasons.

Sue then presented on our street tree program which aims to keep The Gap street trees healthy. A major concern is damage by wipper snippers, so we clear and mulch around their perimeter. Additional volunteers can join at any time, and it would be great if we could form multiple TLC crews – it works well with at least 2 people in a crew. See photos on second page, let us know if you want to put a crew together in your area.

It was a major surprise to see Gayle Dallastone in the audience. Dayle is running the [Shady Lanes Facebook and website](#), and is encouraging people to consider verge gardens instead of lawns. Shady Lanes has many useful tips and tricks for how to get started and the benefit and impact of verge gardens. Sue showed some of the amazing ones already in existence around The Gap and they are definitely worth visiting for inspiration on what is possible (and beautiful). Benefits include food for wildlife, no need for mowing and retention of moisture preventing excessive run-off into the local creeks.

In other news, we are preparing a submission to the TMR Cycling grassroots grants. Our proposal is for 3x3 ways to get from the Gap to the city on bikeways. We want to start from Wittonga, Walton Bridge and Paten Parks, and show people the way via Enoggera, Ithaka and Centenary bikeways. We are grateful for Repair Café partnering with us on the grant, and for letters of support from the state member for Cooper Jonti Bush and federal member for Ryan Elisabeth Watson-Brown, and Bicycle User Group-west. We'll keep you posted if we are successful.

At the meeting, Daniel reported about news from St Peter Chanel: *Exciting announcement! St Peter Chanel (SPC) has formally partnered with Land for Wildlife (LfW), an organisation that encourages and supports the management of wildlife habitat. As a member of LfW the school will have to access to information about native plants, animals, and ecosystems on the school grounds, and get advice on managing threats such as weeds and pest animals. SPC has a substantial habitat corridor within the school, which is fed all year round by a naturally occurring spring that supports an amazing variety of flora and fauna. By partnering with LfW, SPC has a fantastic opportunity to work together to revegetate the area and educate our students and the greater SPC community about this unique ecosystem.*



Member T-Shirts: If you are interested in a The Gap Sustainability Initiative branded T-Shirt, please email us at info@thegapsustainability.org. The t-shirt is free for paid members, and we plan to order more in the future.

Upcoming events and activities:

- We will be doing street tree TLC every second and fourth Saturday morning 7.30-9 of the month, pls [email](#) us if you wish to join.
- Our next working group meeting will be on the 18 June, 7pm at The Gap State School Library.
- Our next seminar will be 16 July – and our keynote speaker will be Genevieve Deaconos, Development Manager – Australian Wildlife Conservancy

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: For those not on social media, besides many other topics, we recently posted about the annual road toll through car accidents; the issue of microplastic now found in people's tissue including the brain, and many other topics. You can find all social media posts on our [website](#) just scroll all the way down and they are listed there. We now also have an active presence on [Facebook](#).

Yours sincerely, The Gap Sustainability Initiative Mgt Committee

Picture 1: Verge garden **Picture 2:** Tree after TLC

